Brawl in the Family

VOLUME ONE

Matthew Taranto

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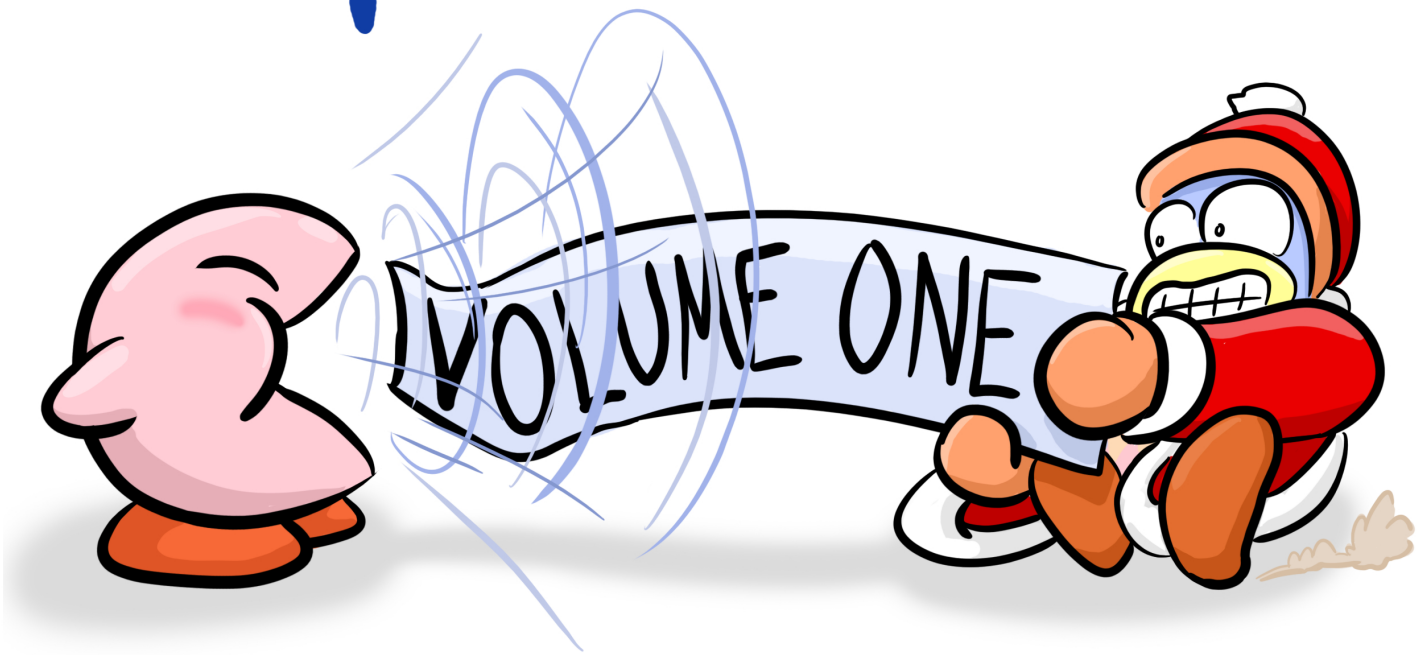

By Matthew Taranto

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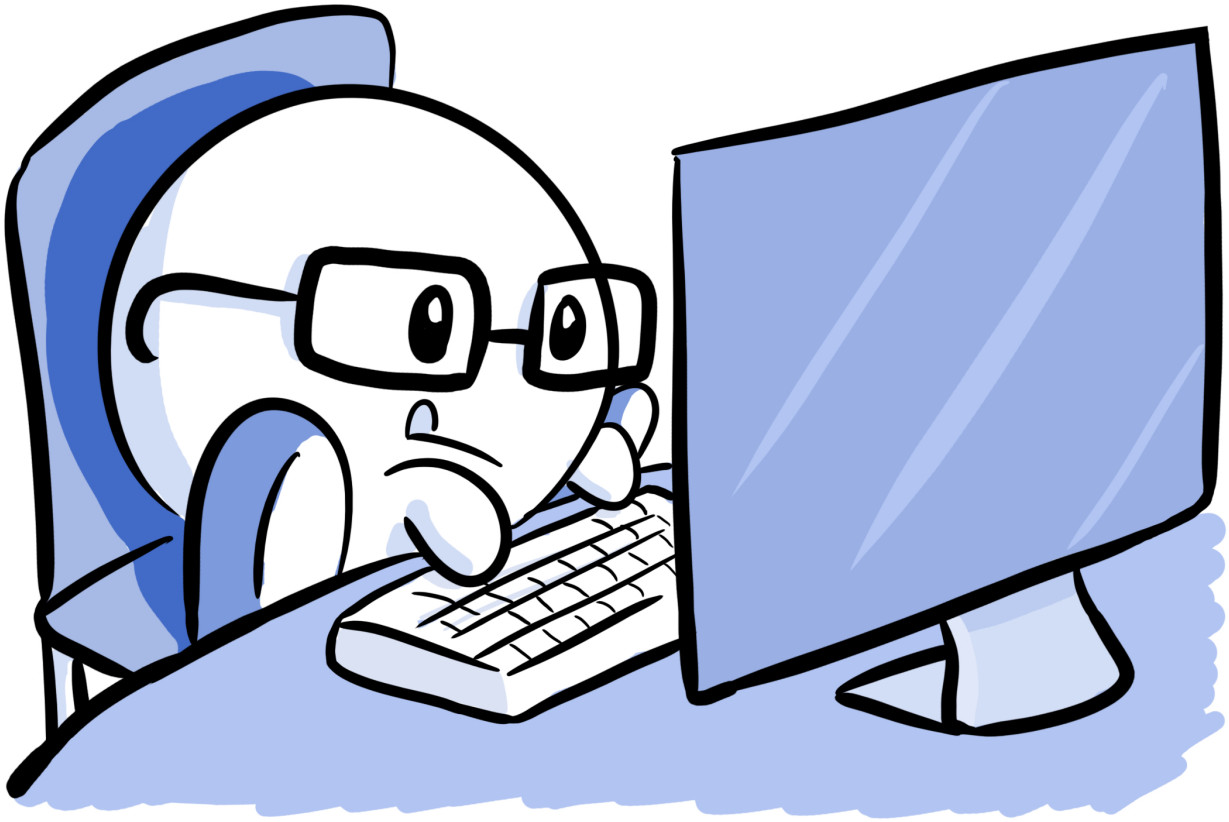

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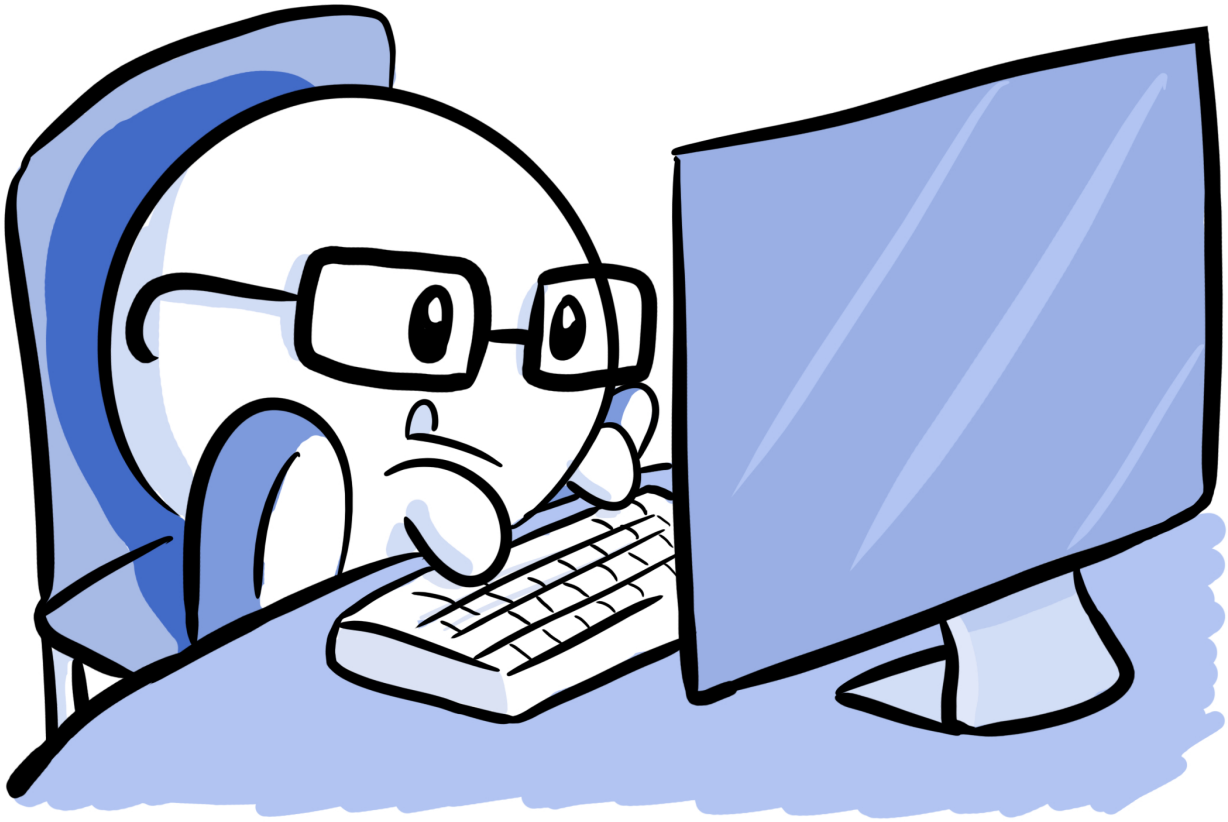

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Introduction

My name is Matthew Taranto, and I have the best fans in the world. For you see, the very book you hold in your hands is the result of hundreds of fans' support, faith, and enthusiasm for a silly online comic series I draw called "Brawl in the Family."

About Brawl in the Family

If you ask me, Nintendo's been the greatest game developer for decades. I was born in 1985, so I grew up right along with the NES and SNES, with Mario, Link, Samus, and Kirby (of course!), and as a kid, I drew Nintendo characters all the time. I absolutely loved--and still love--the fantastic worlds presented in games like *Super Mario Bros.*, *Link's Awakening*, *Super Metroid*, *EarthBound*, etc. So the transition from doodling scenes of Mario hitting blocks to Mario hitting blocks with upside-down question marks on them that sprout sombrero-wearing mushrooms was a natural one.

BitF was a bit of a happy accident; the very first strips were simple doodles of cornball Kirby jokes I thought up on a whim during an art history class in college. They were all sketched on a single piece of printer paper (I carried around several for drawing purposes since the lines on looseleaf bugged me), and basically sat in my binder for months. But in February of 2008, while bored one evening, I decided to quickly sketch them up in Photoshop and post them in a thread on a video game message board I frequented at the time--IGN. I expected to get a few half- hearted chuckles and everyone would move on with their lives, but the positive response there convinced me to make more strips over the next several days. I shot the comics over to the Wii boards on GameFAQs (another popular gaming site) where they were met with even more enthusiasm.

Long story short, I was convinced to start a site and to continue updating regularly. So from April 2008, BitF has been running and continually evolving from a strip about Kirby gags to a full-on celebration of all things Nintendo. I do enjoy a lot of video game webcomics, but I feel that there weren't really enough that were completely focused on the worlds and characters of Nintendo, so that's been one of my goals with BitF; to make it a massive dedication to the company that got me into video games!

About this book

A book of BitF comics was something I wanted to do for awhile, but since making a book is an ambitious and expensive endeavor, the opportunity only became available this summer. Brawl in the Family: Volume One began life as a project on Kickstarter--a site where fans can pledge money in exchange for rewards to help projects come to life. The amount I wanted to raise for the book's creation was $10,000…and it reached that goal in a single day. So for the remainder of the project's duration, the pledges kept coming in, ending at over $50,000! The response was completely overwhelming, and it was amazing to see so many fans' support for BitF. So I vowed to make the book as good as possible, cramming it with lots of fun extras and original art.

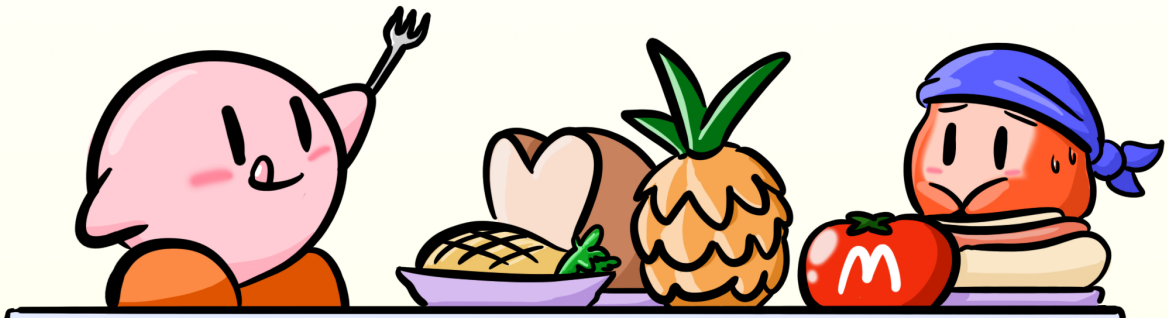
Inside these hallowed pages, you'll find the first 200 BitF comics in their original glory! See where the madness all began as Kirby transforms into everything under the sun! Relive the magic of Dedede discovering the true meaning of Christmas! Fall in love all over again as Meta Knight finds himself unable to tear himself from Dedede by means of a sticky explosive! Recoil in horror when Waluigi takes over the strip on two separate occasions! And of course, light a candle for the Goombas that were crushed beneath your feet.

The party's just getting started, too--I feel that since the comics are already online, the book should contain lots of extra-special new stuff for the fans! So check out "An Insatiable Appetite," a new ten-page story/poem involving one hungry Kirby, the new Characters pages detailing the 12 most prominent BitF characters of the first 200 strips, a gallery of bonus images from the comic's history (including the very first doodles in class!), a featurette on the process I go through when making a strip, a lovely two-page spread with every *Super Smash Bros. Brawl* character, a Character Index that easily lets viewers find comics with their favorite characters, and of course, a six-page special thanks to the fans that helped make this book possible.

Finally, I'd like to thank my wife, Sarah, for her endless support, my friend Chris Seward, who's given valuable feedback and kept the site running since the beginning, my siblings and parents--Paul, Darlene, Melissa, Michael--for helping shape my character and sense of humor, Nintendo for making amazing games, worlds, and characters that bring joy to millions every day…and of course, to the best fans in the world!

Now sit back, grab a snack, and enjoy Brawl in the Family: Volume One!

Matthew Taranto



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KiRBY

Kirby's childlike optimism is matched only by his insatiable appetite. In most situations, the pink puffball is not only unfazed by negativity, he usually seems completely oblivious to it. While his joyous nature affords him many friends, he's not above eating them.

The early strips of BitF were nearly all Kirby-centric. While I enjoy the simplicity of these comics, I feel BitF couldn't really grow unless I expanded it to more characters and worlds. The eating gags became less common, but Kirby still remains the comic's main character. Nowadays, much of the humor based around Kirby stems from his friendliness and cheerful disposition more than his gluttony.

King Dedede

Prideful, boastful, and always looking for a fight, the hotheaded King Dedede can't stand Kirby's ever-cheerful disposition. While the plump penguin usually attempts to "get" Kirby through various means, he does on occasion show a shred or two of humanity. Meta Knight is who Dedede considers his closest friend (although this is mostly one-sided), but he gets along with Adeleine as well.

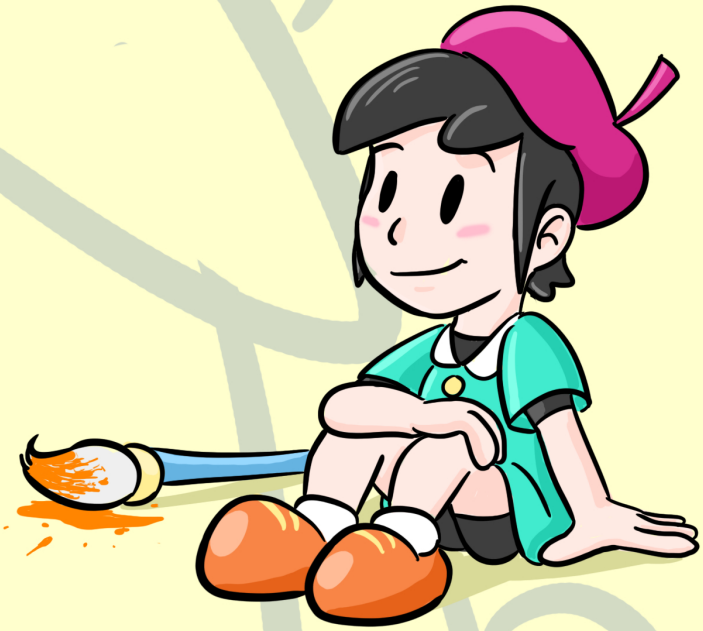
King Dedede's aggressive personality makes him a lot of fun to write, and he's actually my favorite BitF character. The comic's cast is--for the most part--fairly passive, so most of the snarkier moments are saved for Dedede. His expressions--a combination of pliable fishy lips and Simpson-esque eyeballs--are also consistently fun to explore.

META KNIGHT

The mysterious, masked Meta Knight prefers to be left alone, but he often ends up dragged into all sorts of situations thanks to his livelier colleagues. He has displayed some aggressive tendencies, but they're usually kept in check unless someone gets on his bad side. At his core, Meta Knight is actually fairly heroic, but while he has a strong sense of justice, he is not quick to forgive.

Meta Knight is sort of the "straight man" of BitF, with humor derived from him being forced into scenarios against his will. Kirby fears the masked knight, while Dedede looks up to him and Adeleine always attempts to bring out his good side.

ADELEINE



The only human on Popstar (more or less), Adeleine's friendly disposition and ability to see the good in people allows her to be close friends with Kirby and even Dedede. She also has the strange talent of bringing the subjects of her paintings into the real world, although she's more likely to just keep them as a still life these days.

Adeleine is fun to write for because she's so straightforward and pleasant, and seeing how her earnestness affects the grouchy Dedede (and morose Meta Knight) is always enjoyable to explore. She's become a rather popular character in the comic, despite not actually being a major character in the video games.

MARIO

It's-a him! Mario is well-known throughout the world, and he's always willing to lend a helping hand. It seems like he's always on the road, but that's because his dedication to Princess Peach truly knows no bounds.

Mario's strips are very frequent in BitF, second only to the Kirby ones. They're good go-to comics because everyone's familiar with the Mario games, and the bizarre rules in his world make for lots of comic material.

BOWSER

Perhaps the only thing that matches Mario's need to rescue Peach is Bowser's need to kidnap her. The Koopa King is brash and menacing, but usually finds time to race go-karts with his nemesis.

Like Mario, Bowser's comics are less about him so much as the general strangeness of the Mushroom Kingdom. There was one story in BitF history when he was wildly successful...but that's for the next book!

LINK

Whether he's sixteen or cel-shaded, Link is your standard hero on a quest. He has a habit of hanging around characters that tend to do the talking for both of them.

Since Link is silent in all of his games, I've decided to make him silent in BitF as well. Sometimes this can make for some tricky comic writing, but I can often use Navi to speak for him, and Link's expressions are typically enough to get the point across.

WADDLE DEE

Let's hear it for the loyal workers out there! The standard Waddle Dee model comes complete with a hard-working spirit and is 100% loyal (exceptions may apply if they're serving a big jerk).

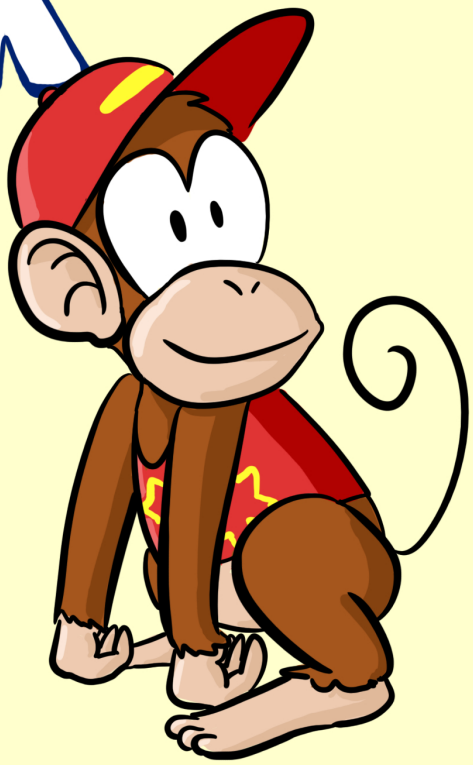
This particular Waddle Dee dons a bandana, and serves as Dedede's stooge--and occasionally, his pal. He's quite devoted to his king, but contrary to common belief, he does have a breaking point.

JIGGLYPUFF

This puffy Pokémon shows up early and quickly becomes Kirby's special pal. The flower so prominently displayed near the ear is a remnant of their first meeting (and strangely, is still alive).

Jigglypuff is another character that doesn't say much, but has plenty of affection to give. Sometimes when I think BitF is getting too negative, I bust out a Kirby and Jigglypuff comic.

DIDDY KONG DK



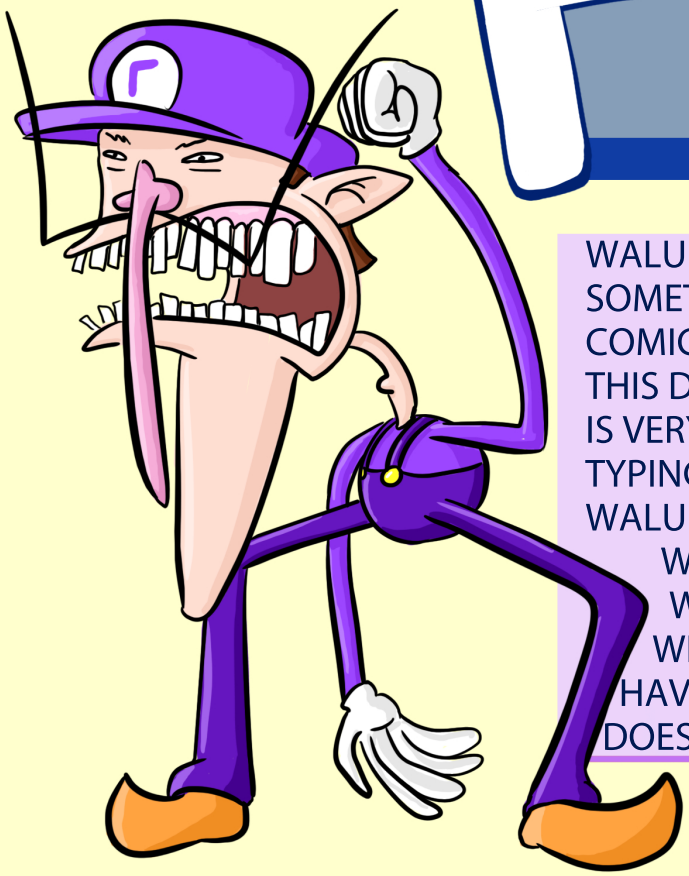
Diddy and Kirby have a lot in common, personality-wise, so they hang out from time to time. The little monkey is wide-eyed and excitable, although he apparently makes a decent lawyer. ...I think?

Diddy showed up in the earlier strips often, but I think he wasn't seen as much later as Kirby mainly interacted with Dedede, Adeleine, and Jigglypuff. It's nice for Kirby to have a pal similar to him though.

CAPTAIN FALCON

He's loud, he's proud, and he loves to punch. Captain Douglas Jebediah Falcon apparently can't resist letting the world know of his actions, but behind the flashiness is a man with a bit of a crush on a fellow bounty hunter.

Captain Falcon's comics are quite popular with fans, and they all contain his name for easy recognizability. He's one of the most fun characters to write for and draw.



WALUIGI

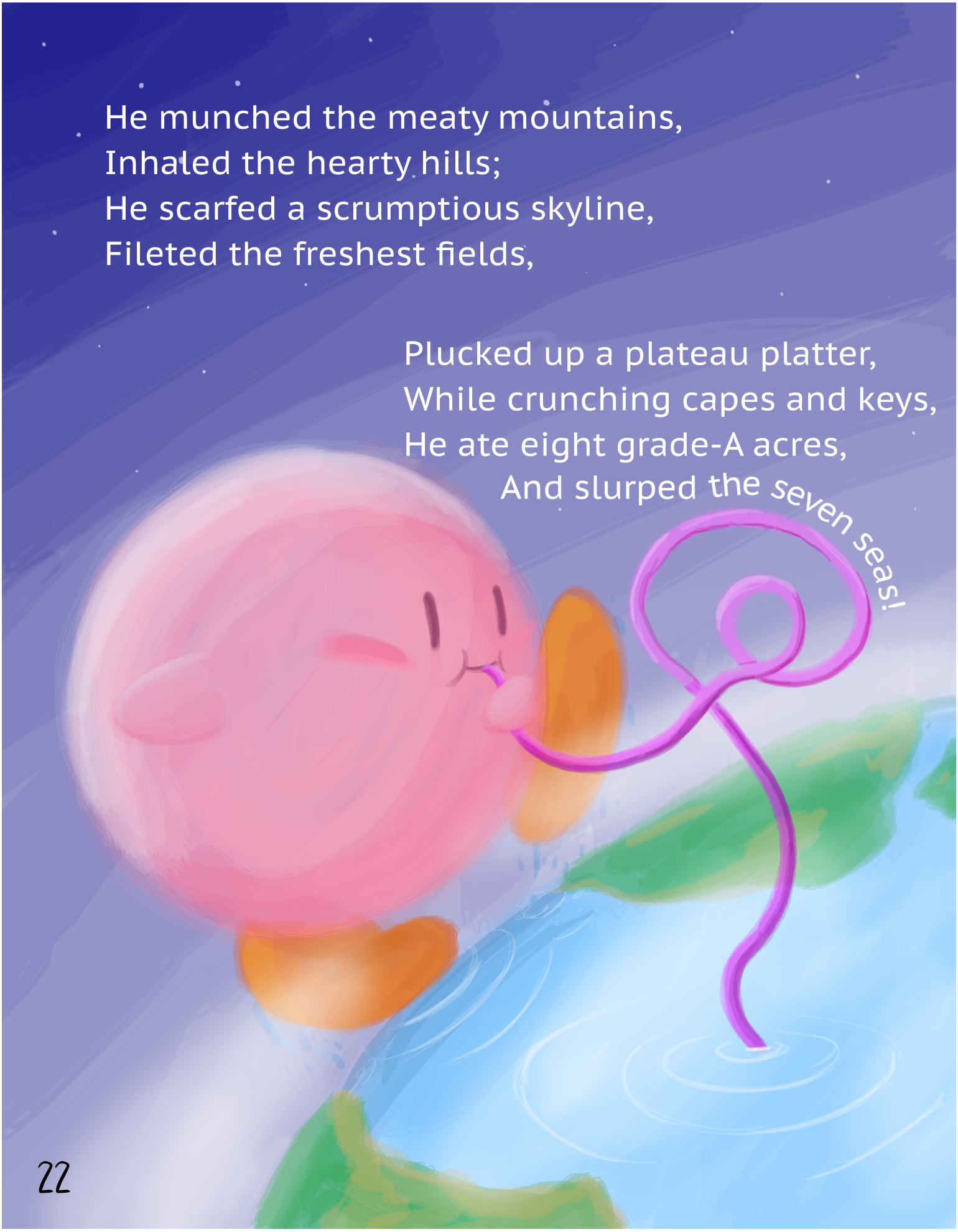
WALUIGI HATES BRAWL IN THE FAMILY. SOMETIMES WALUIGI TAKES OVER THE COMIC AND MAKES IT MUCH FUNNIER. THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN ENOUGH. WALUIGI IS VERY HANDSOME AND IS TIRED OF TYPING THIS. WALUIGI WANTS A BOOK OF WALUIGI IN THE FAMILY COMICS. IT WOULD BE DELICIOUS. WHY IS WALUIGI'S KNEE IN THE WAY HERE. WHAT A RIP-OFF. WALUIGI SHOULD HAVE A FULL PAGE FOR THE BIO. WHY DOES THE PAINTER GIRL GET A FULL PAGE

Our hero woke up, peckish.
“Oh, what to eat today?”
He thought a bit,
And then declared,

“The WORLD is my buffet!”

He snacked on a tomato
And then proclaimed with glee,
“This tasty fruit would go well with
A side of Waddle Dee!”

He couldn’t eat just one!
He hogged out like a pig!
And as he stuffed his gullet,
He started getting
...big.


He munched the meaty mountains,
Inhaled the hearty hills;
He scarfed a scrumptious skyline,
Fileted the freshest fields,
Plucked up a plateau platter,
While crunching capes and keys,
He ate eight grade-A acres,
And slurped the seven seas!

The poor guy still felt hungry.
“You know what might be fun?
If I inhaled the whole wide world,
And then the whole wide sun!”

Quasars, comets, planetoids,
Huge cosmic cavalries
Of heavenly hors d'ourves made up
Of stars and galaxies.

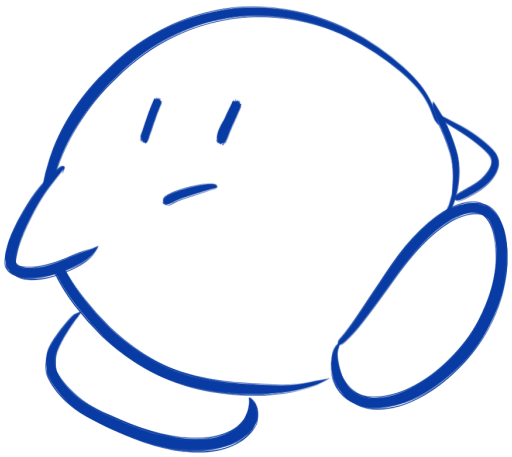
He ate, he ate, he ate it all.
He ate all that could be,

And found himself in

one

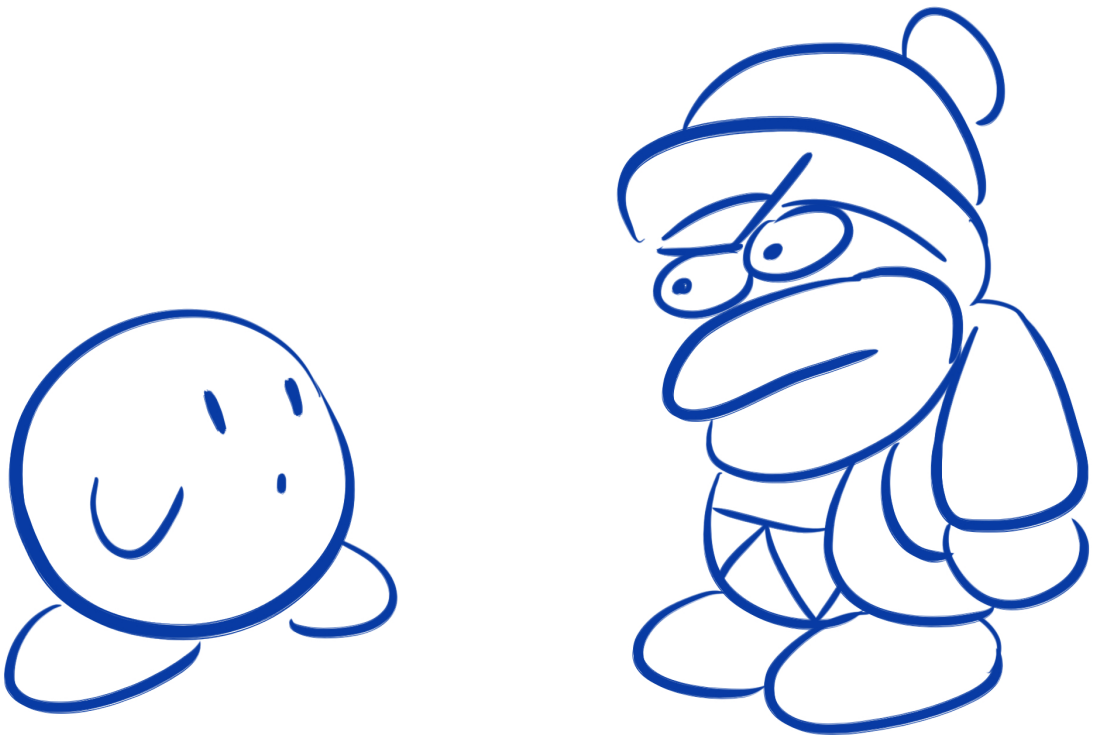
white

void

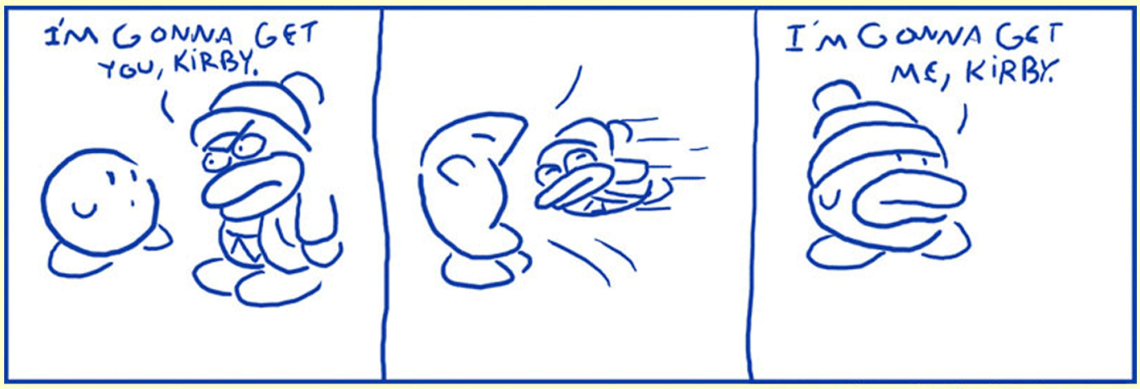


Lost,

...and still hungry.



001 - The Showdown

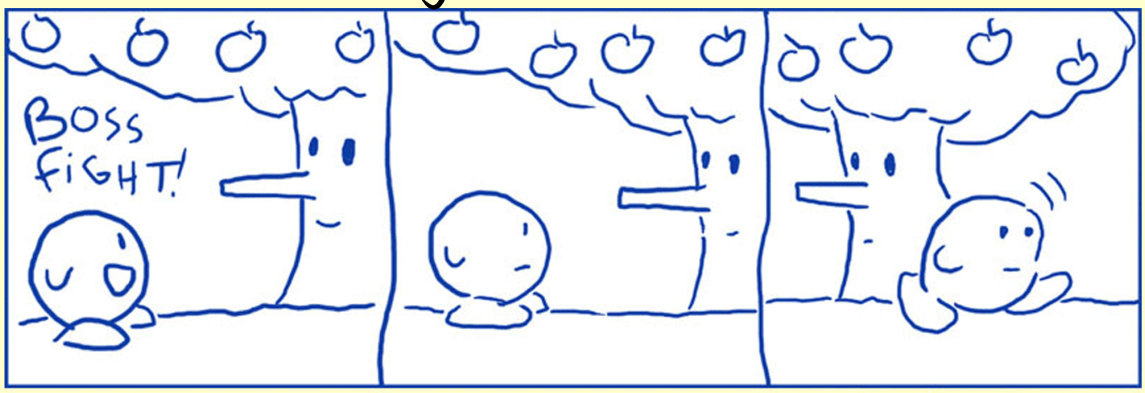


This first comic is still one of my favorites--it's silly and vaguely nonsensical, but makes just enough sense to work.

002 - Food

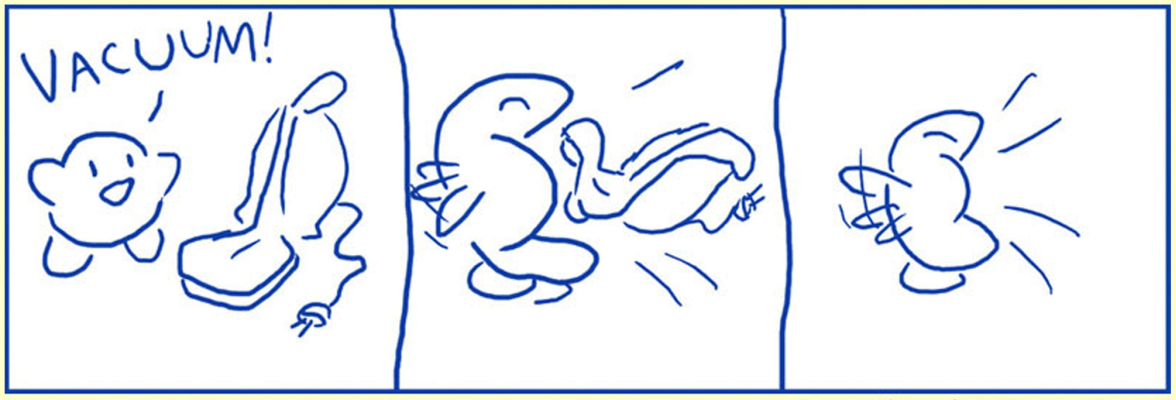
This is the "Kirby eating gag" in its most basic form.

003 - Boss Fight



The humor was pretty droll early on, partly because I wasn't thinking too hard for each one. This style of humor came back a bit in the Waluigi comics.

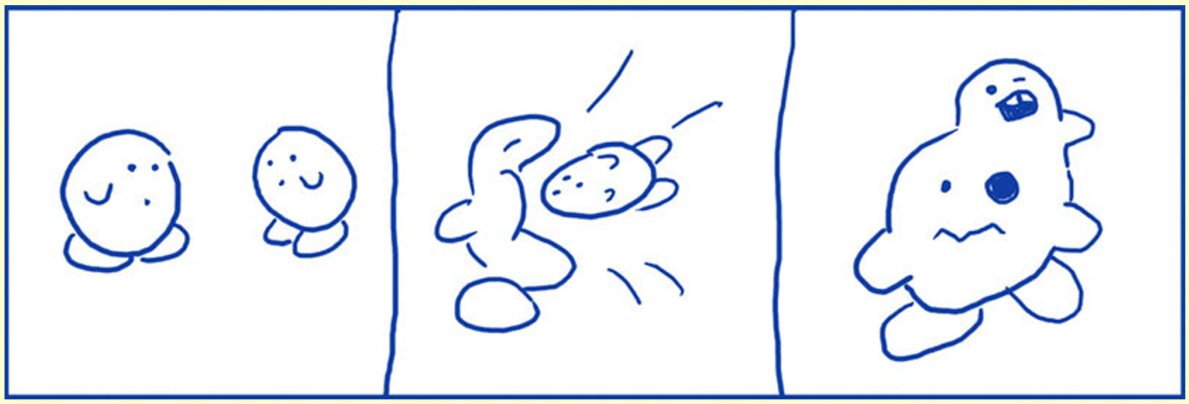
004 - Vacuum



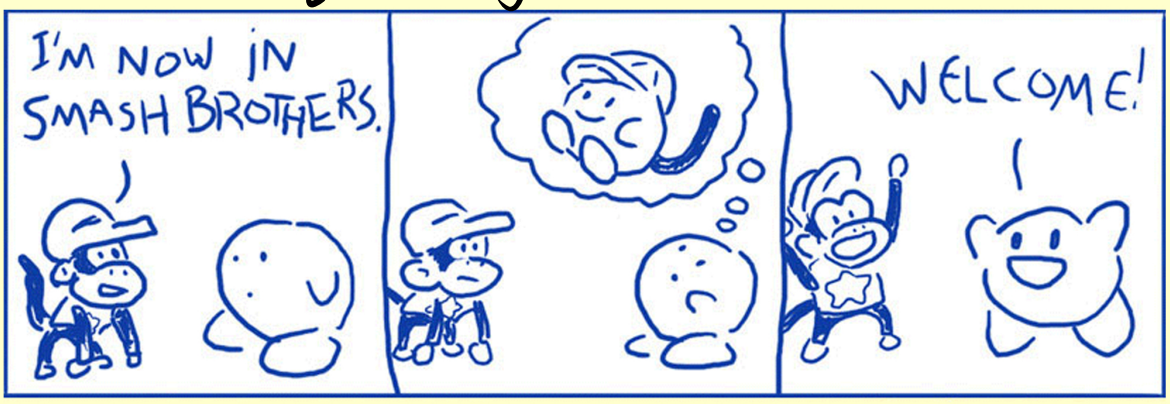
005 - HDF

HDF stands for "Highly Detailed Face" and was a character I drew in middle school. This strip is one of the more popular ones with the fans.

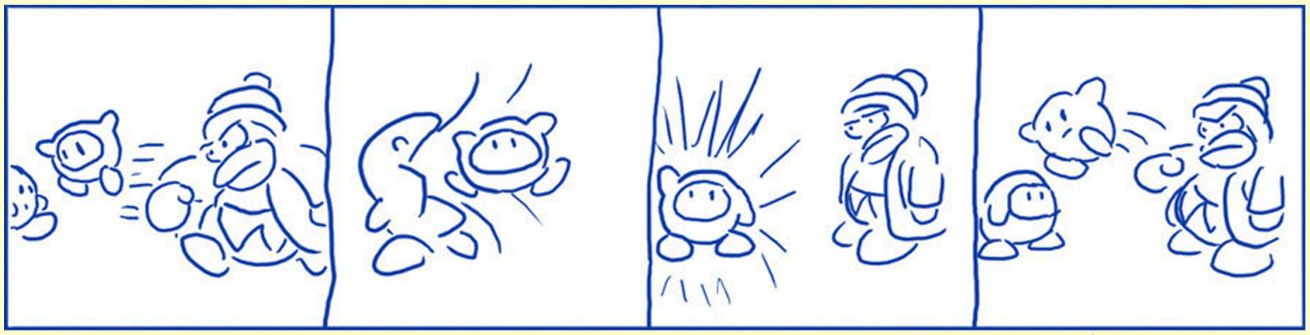
006 - Twins



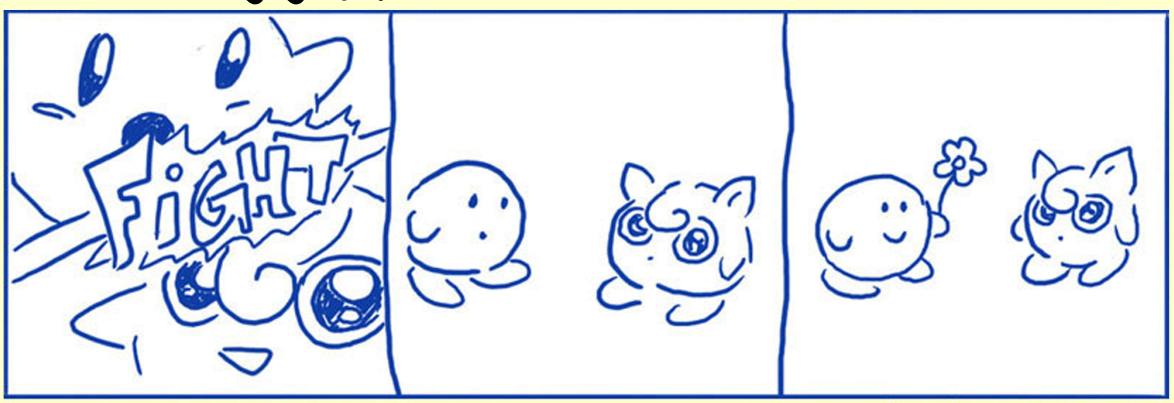
007 - Diddy Kong



008 - Waddle Dee



009 - Jigglypuff

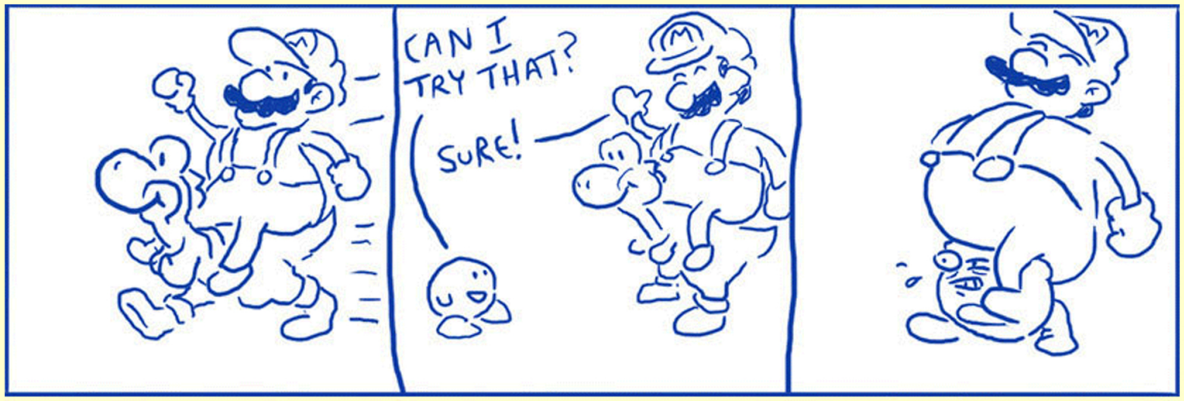


While it started as a one-time gag, this relationship ended up becoming a regular thing. Jigglypuff, albeit having little to no dialogue, is featured in some of the more gentle BitF strips when paired with Kirby.

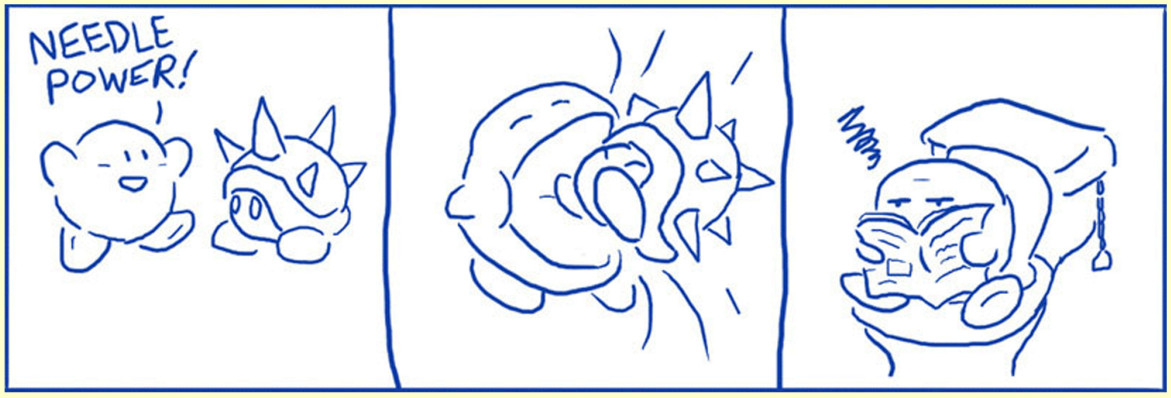
010 - Meta Knight

011 - Zombie

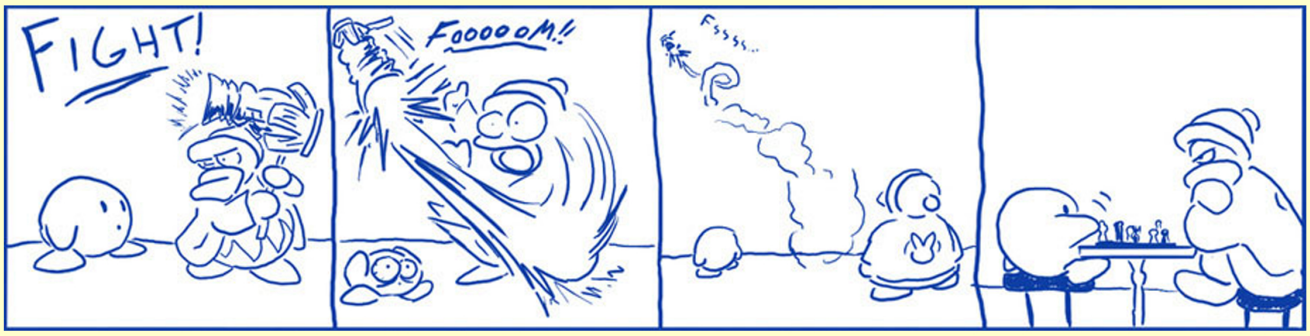
012 - Hitchin' a Ride



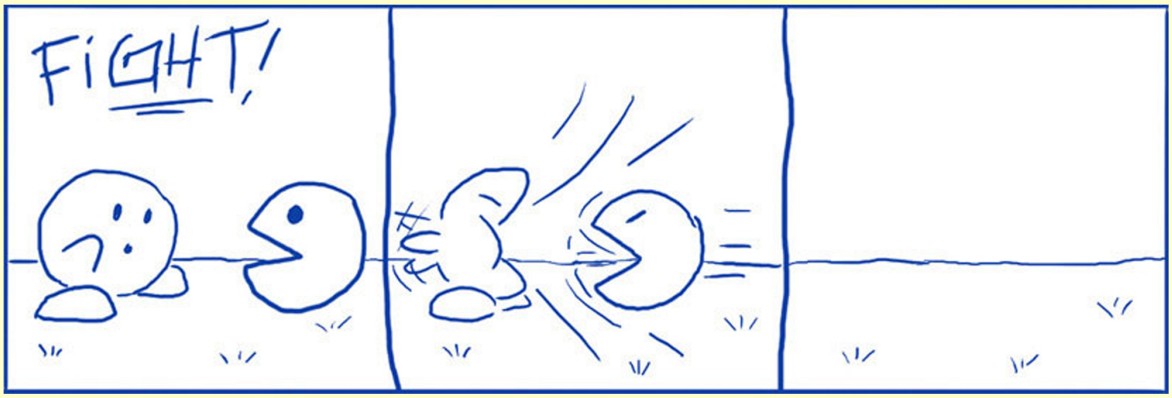
013 - Needle



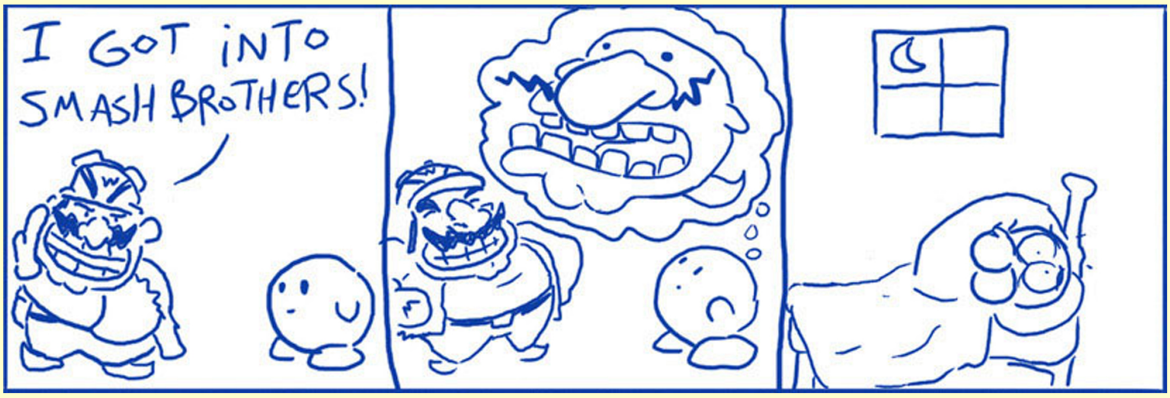
014 - Jet Hammer



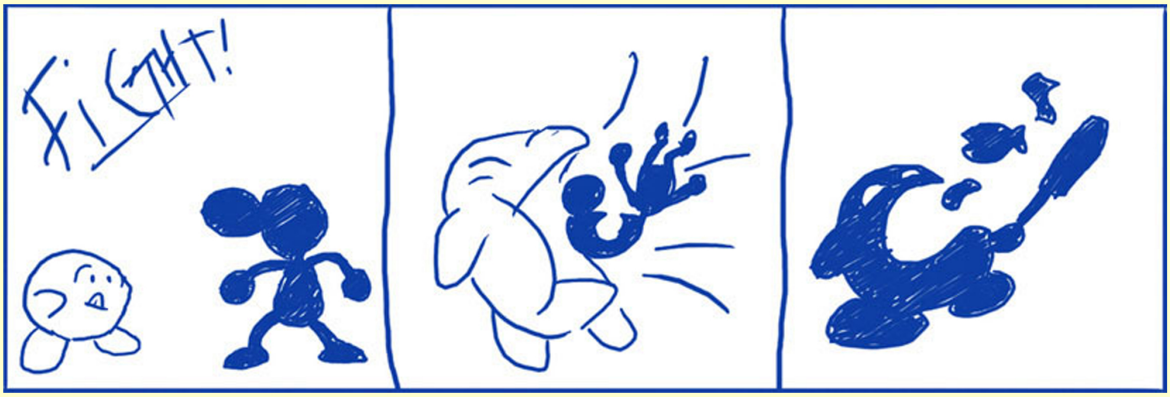
015 - Pac-man



016 - Wario

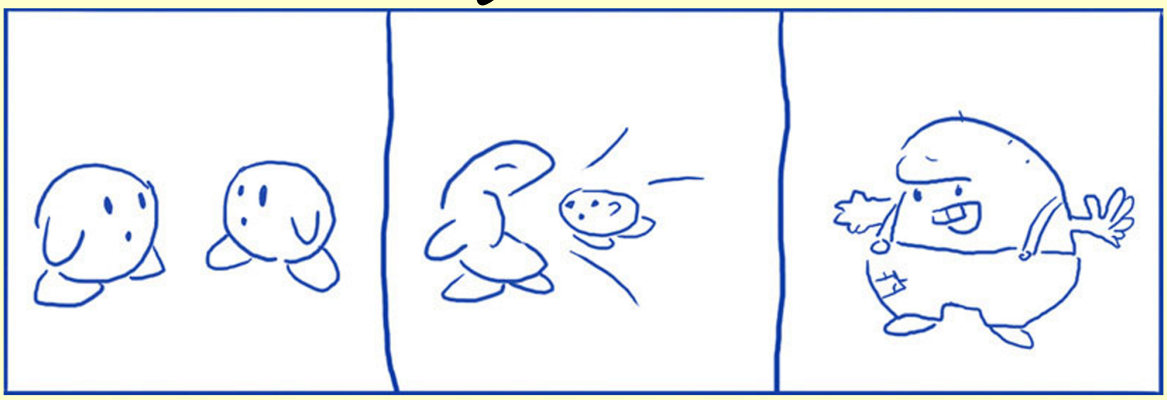


017 - Mr. Game & Watch



018 - Mewtwo

019 - Unhealthy



020 - Savior

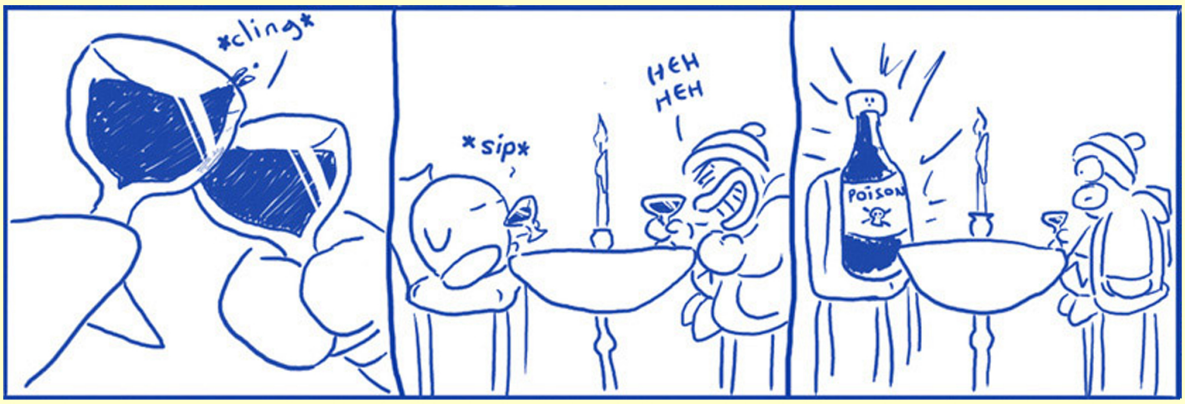
021 - Telltale

022 - Charizard

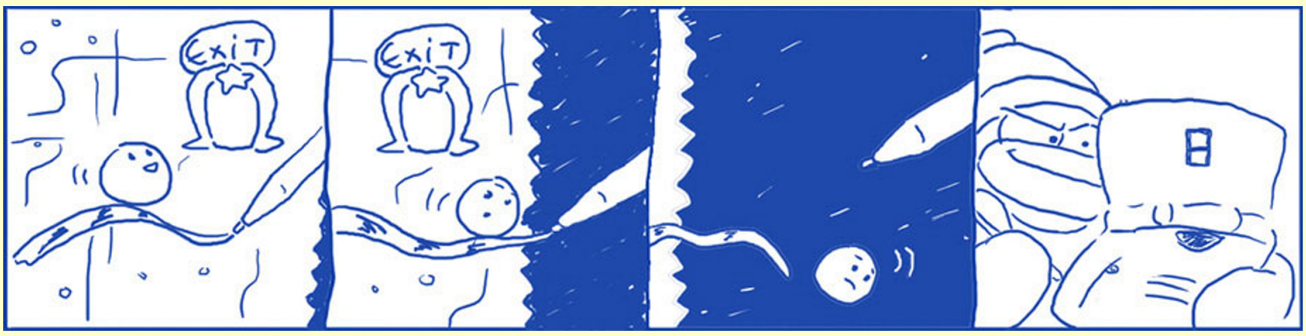
023 - Universe

I like the idea of Kirby swallowing the universe, although this comic sort of has a non-punchline. Things were still pretty experimental at this point. For a more in-depth version of this concept, check page 18 of this book!

024 - Wine for Two

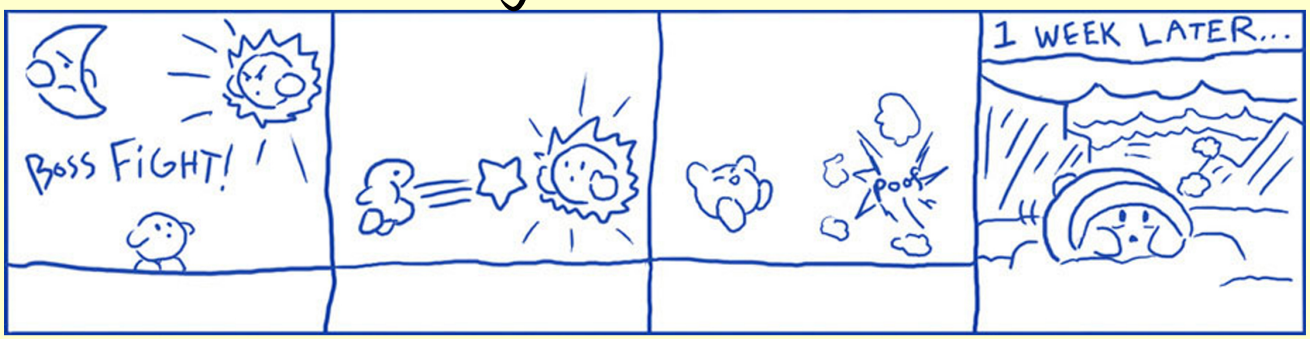


025 - Canvas Curse

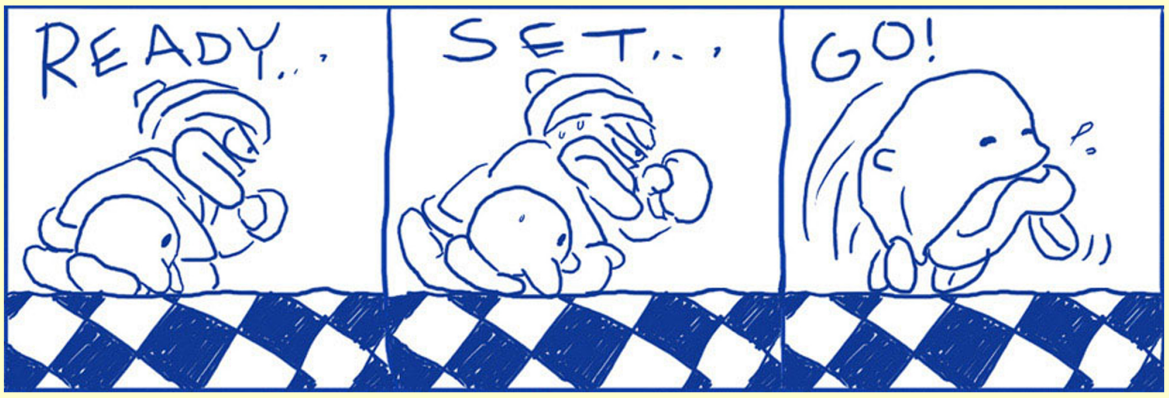


026 - Shadow

027 - Mr. Bright



028 - Gourmet Race



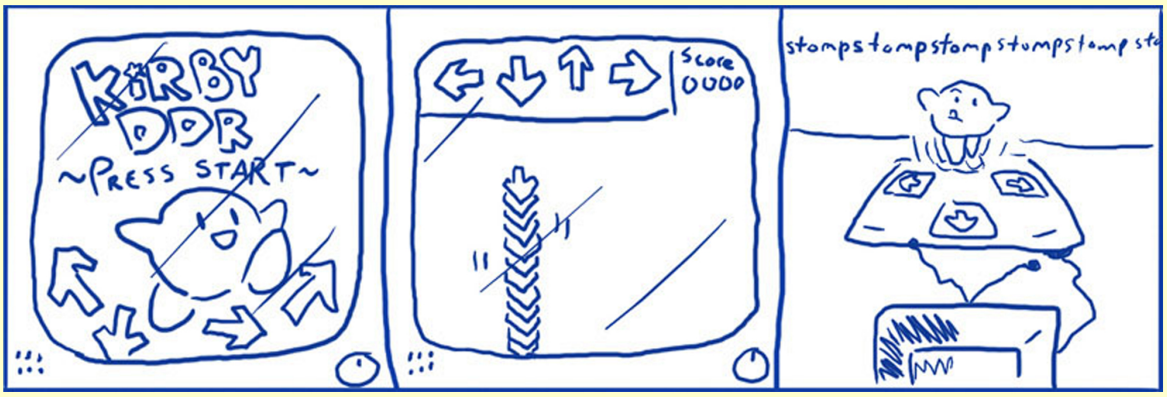
029 - Pikachu

030 - Luma

031 - EA

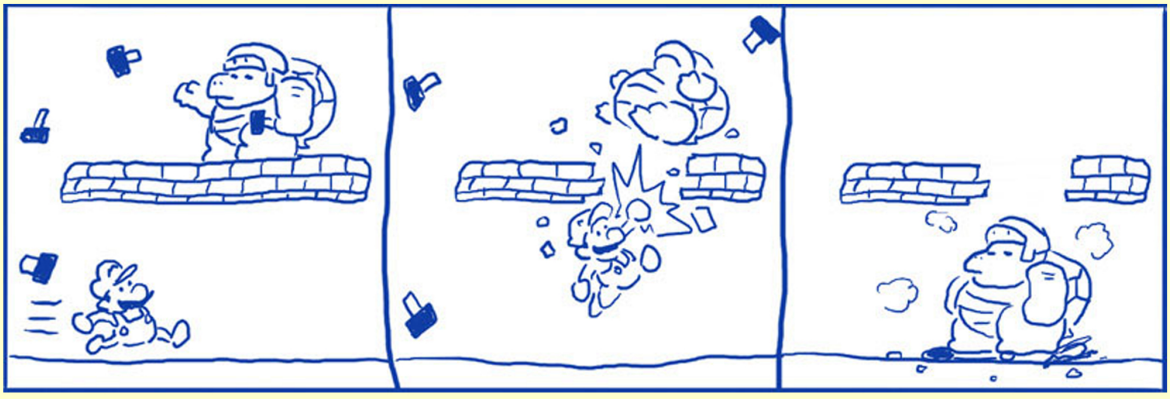
This is one of my favorite takes on the "Kirby eats something" joke. I don't go into gaming satire too often but EA did have a habit of buying out companies in the mid/late-00's, and it made for a fun reversal.

032 - DDR



033 - Electroplankton

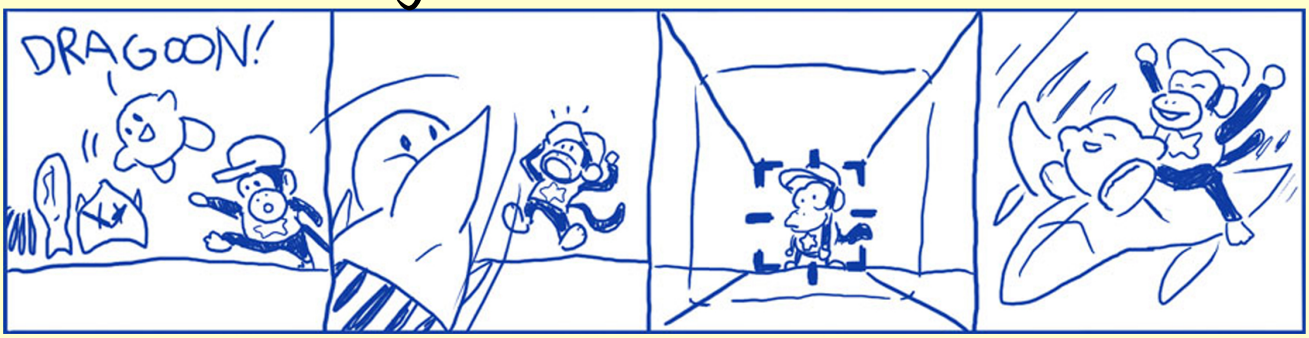
034 - Enter Mario



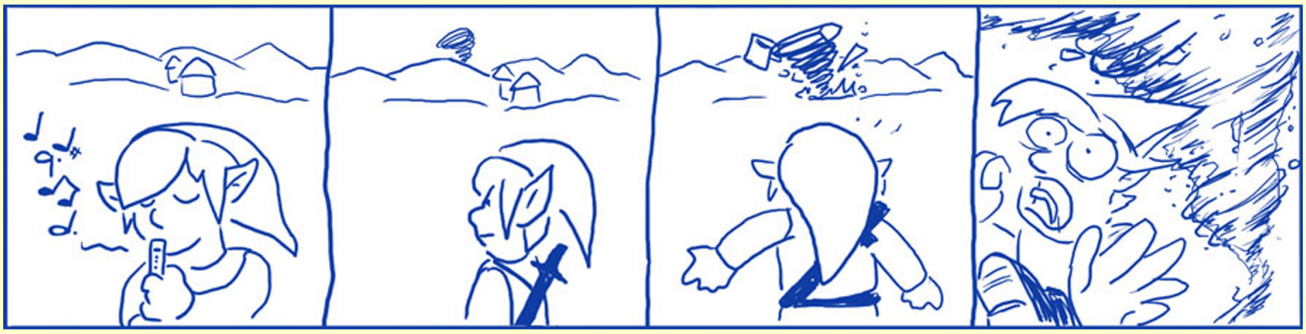
035 - Leaf Pile

It took a couple of years for me to realize that I forgot Mario's mustache in panel 3.

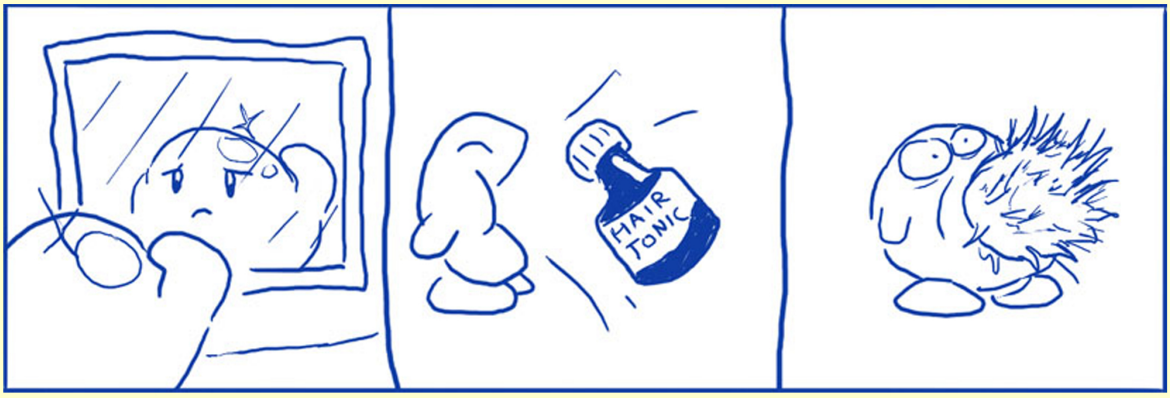
036 - Dragoon



037 - Recorder

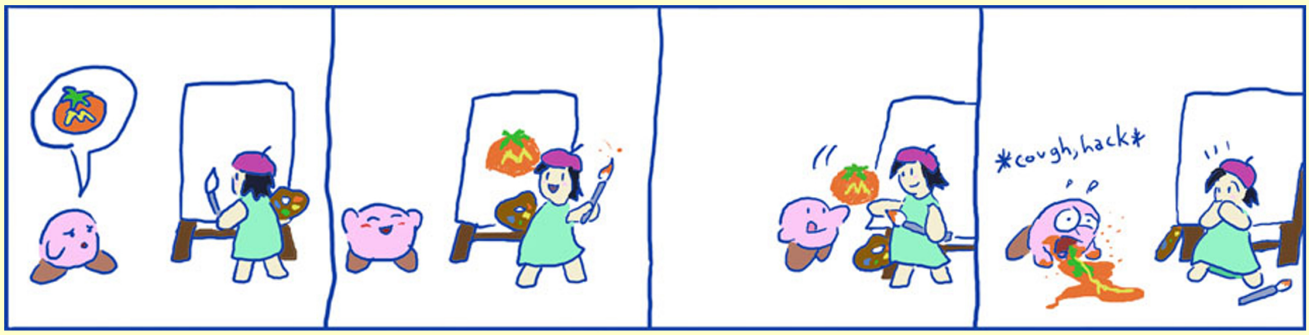


038 - Bald



039 - Koopa Troopa

040 - Adeleine



041 - Boo

042 - Chef

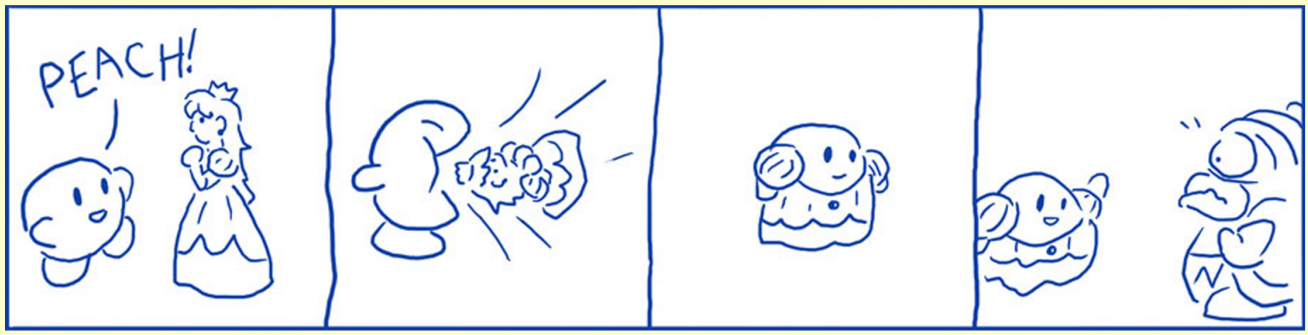
043 - Captain Falcon at Church

I'm not sure why, but I love the idea of Captain Falcon being a Roman Catholic. With strips like these, though, it's important to keep it tasteful enough so as not repel readers (or invoke a bolt of lightning from above)!

044 - Sick

045 - Treasure

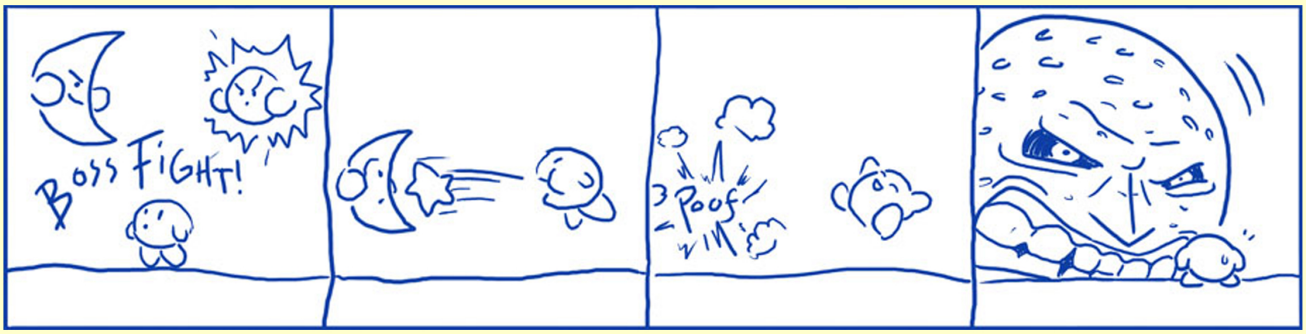
046 - Peach



I feel that the first version of this comic--while somewhat out-of-character for Kirby--is funnier than the final version. Head to the Gallery section of this book to check it out!

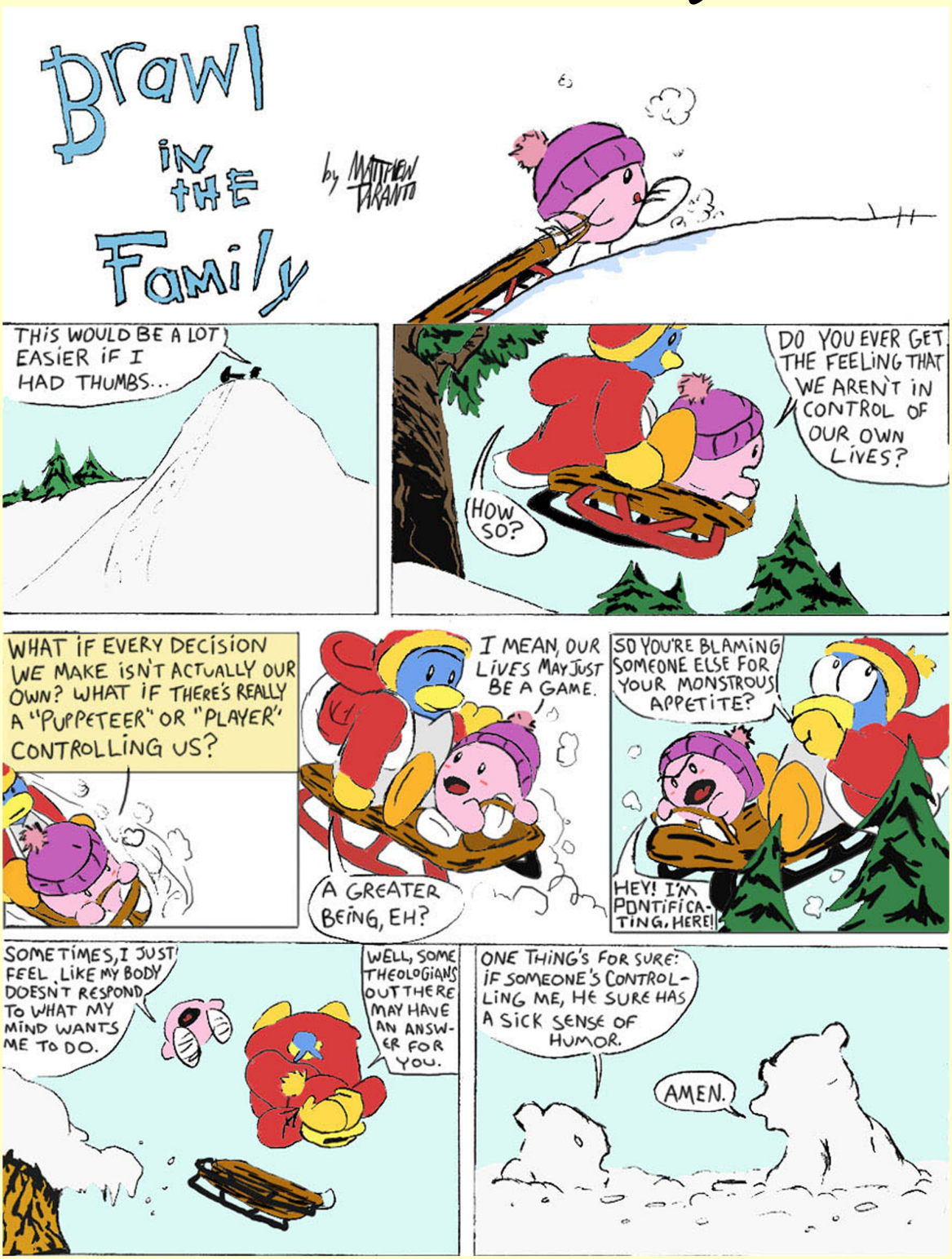
047 - Súper Hongo

048 - Mr. Shine



049 - Backstory

050 - Gooey Kablooie



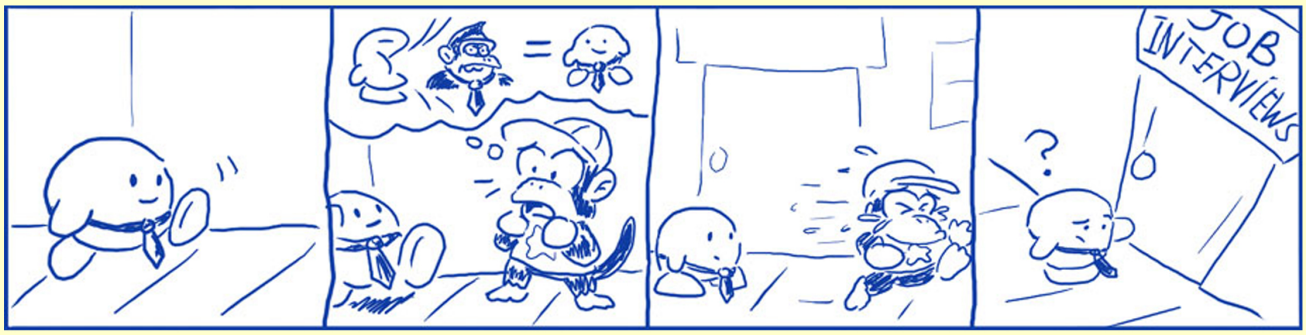
As Calvin & Hobbes is my favorite comic strip, I loved making this tribute for the 50th comic. I think it was around this point that Brawl in the Family started to get a little more ambitious and experimental with ideas. This is also (currently) the only BitF strip that was drawn on paper then scanned in (as opposed to 100% digital).

051 - Captain Falcon Solid

052 - Shave

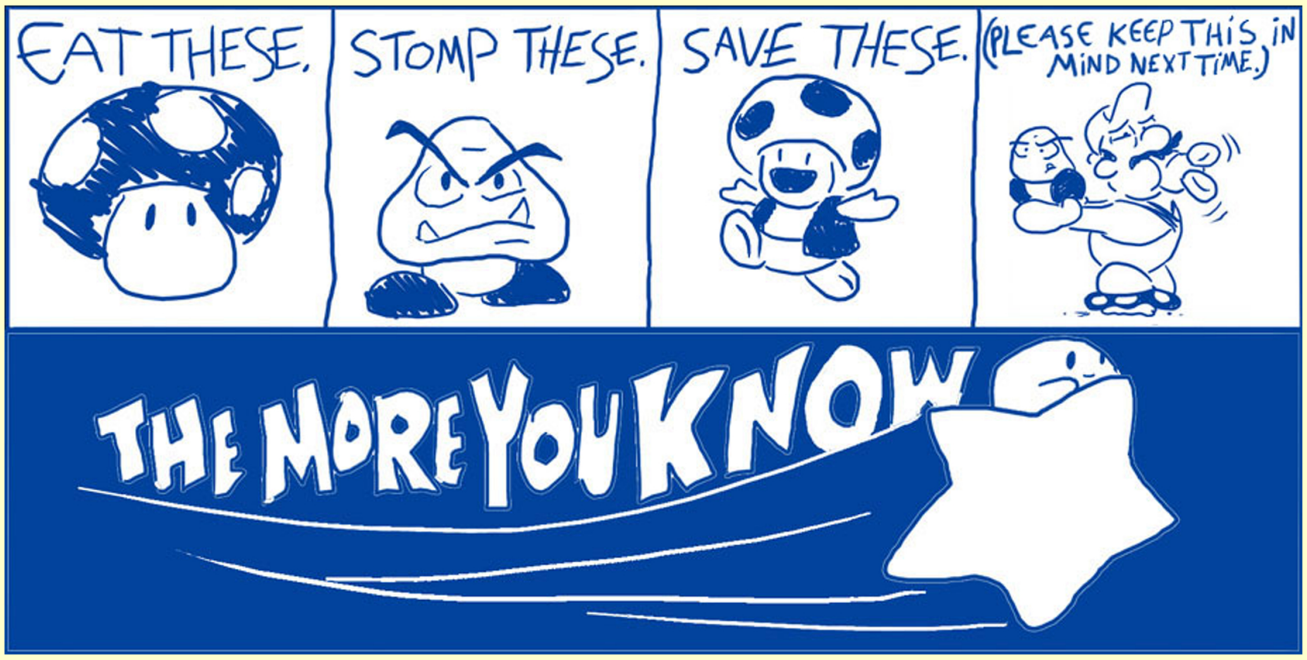
053 - Squirtle

054 - Tie



055 - Nap

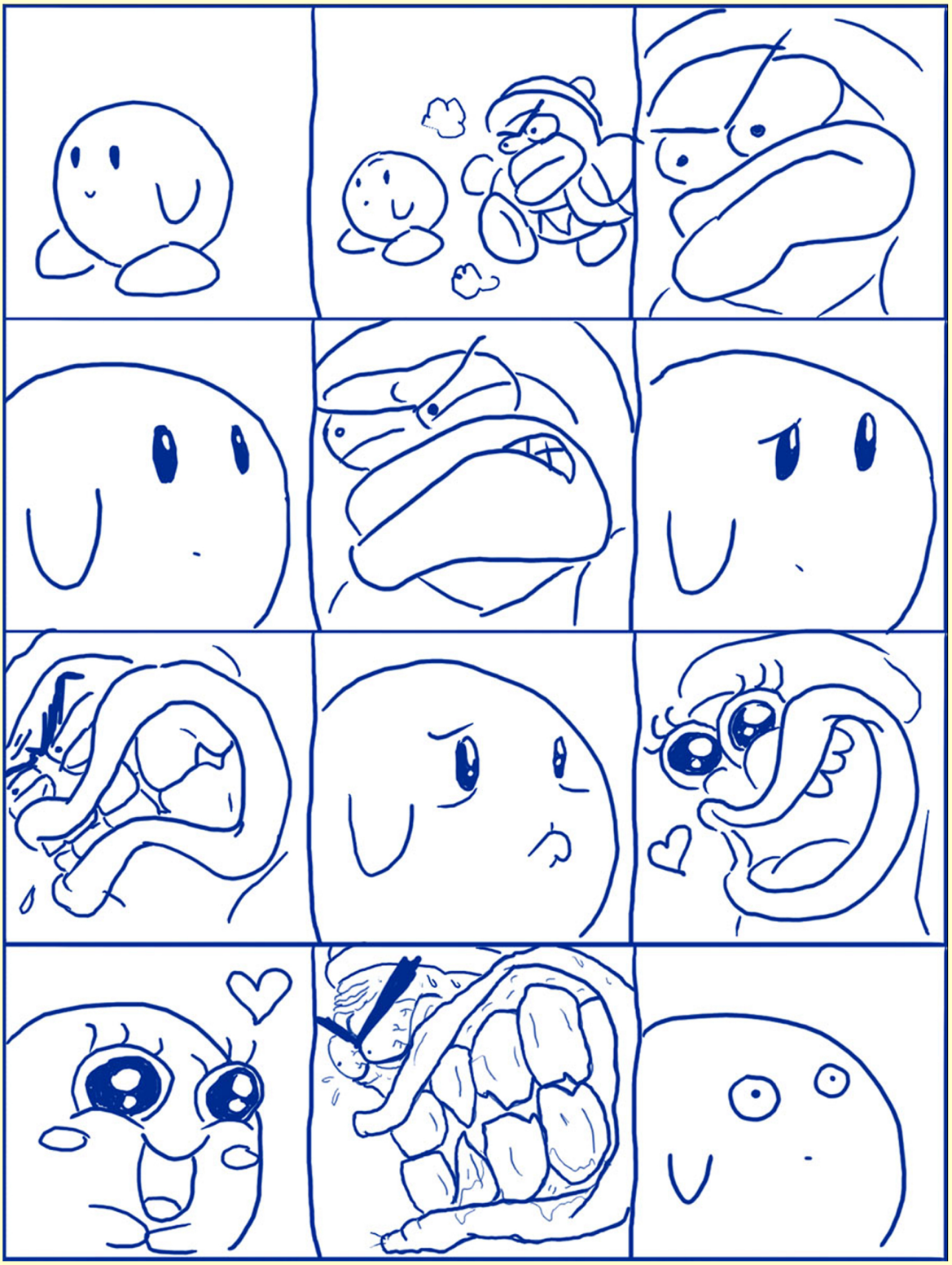
056 - Guide to Mushrooms



This ended up becoming one of our first shirts.

057 - No I in Team

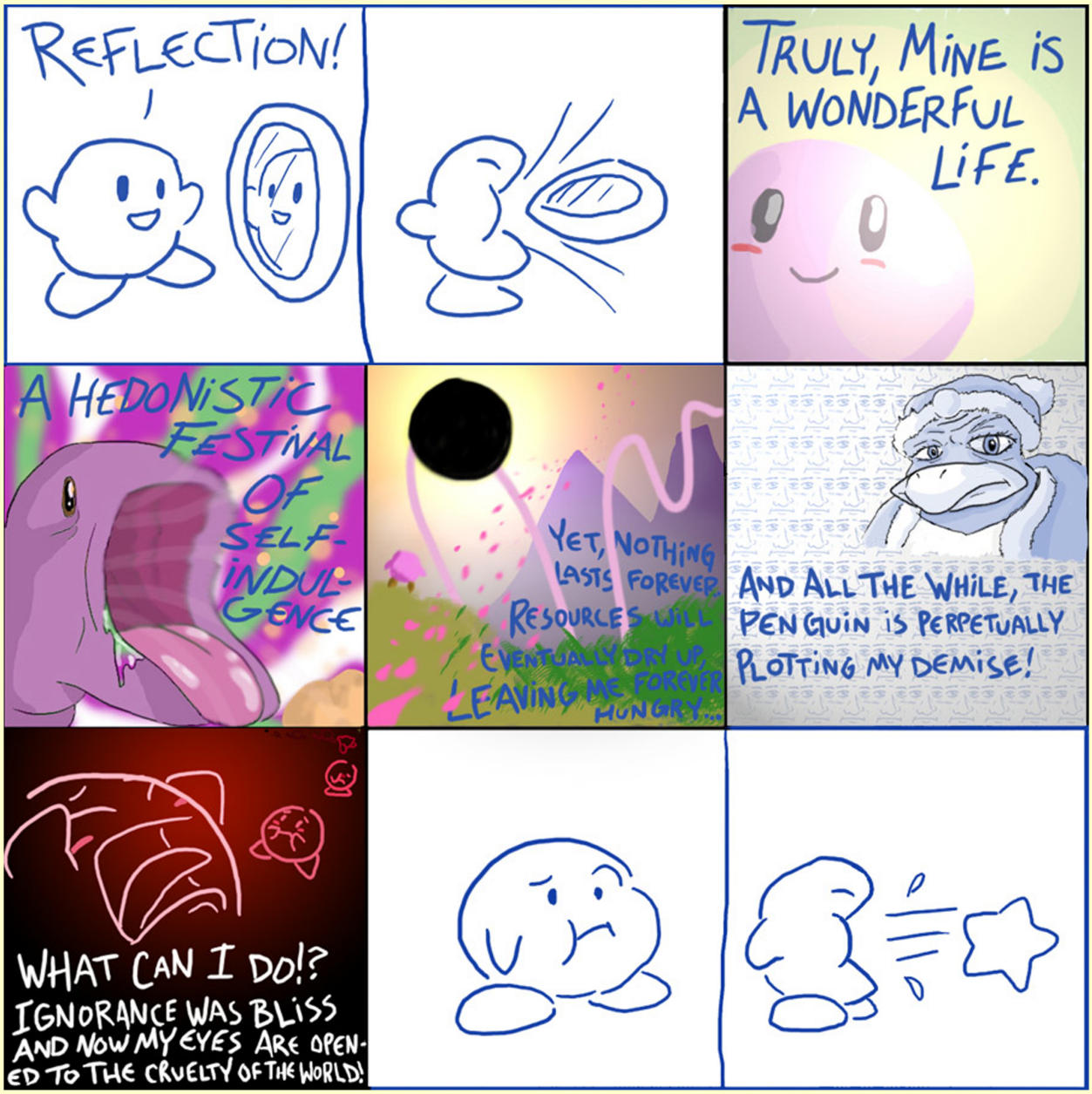
058 - Face Off



It's fun playing with the characters expressions to see how far they can stretch, and this strip is essentially an exercise in that. One of the things I've learned while doing BitF is to not push it too far, though--if wild expressions saturate the strip, there's no baseline and it becomes overdone and forced.

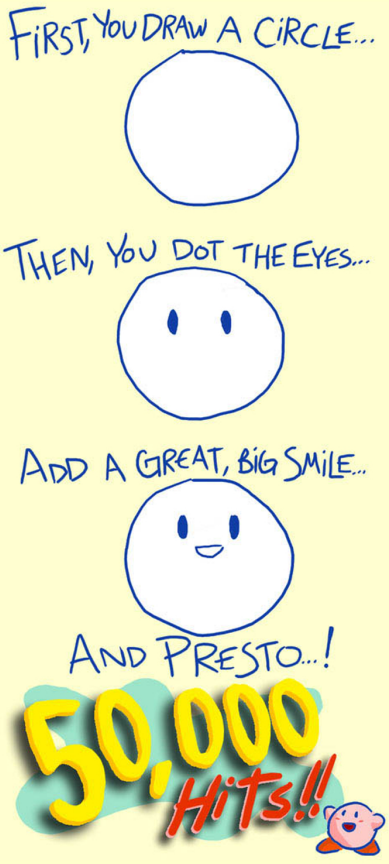
059 - Assist Trophy

060 - Reflection



By comic 060, I felt it was time to play with people's expectations and see what sorts of concepts I could mine from the Kirby series. Part of my goal with this comic from early on was to keep things interesting and not become too predictable.

I made this promo image very soon after the site went live--one day, in fact! We don't really have a hit counter these days anymore, but it sure was exciting seeing how many people were checking out the silly comics I was drawing.

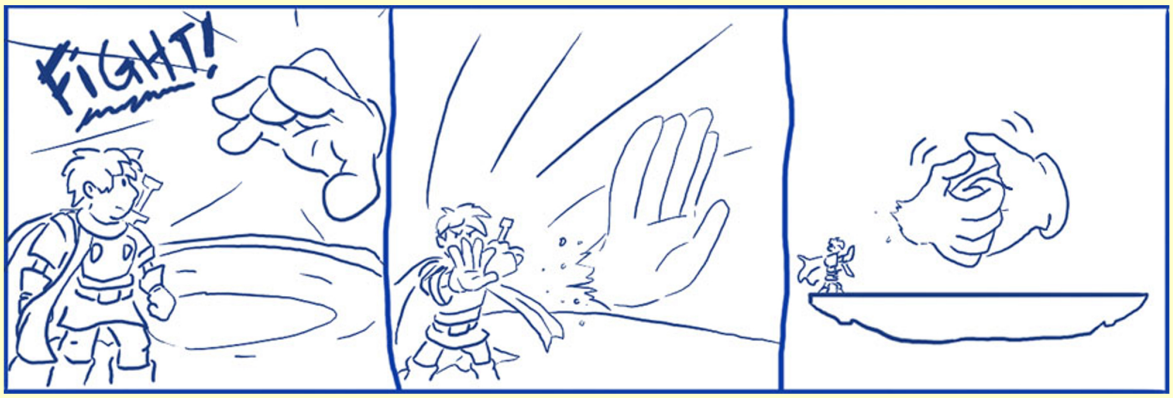


This image later became a T-shirt.

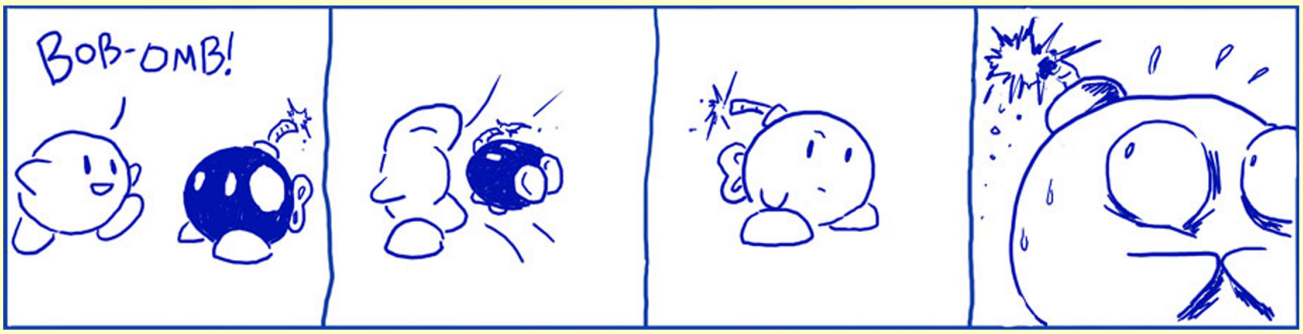
061 - Olympics

062 - Fit

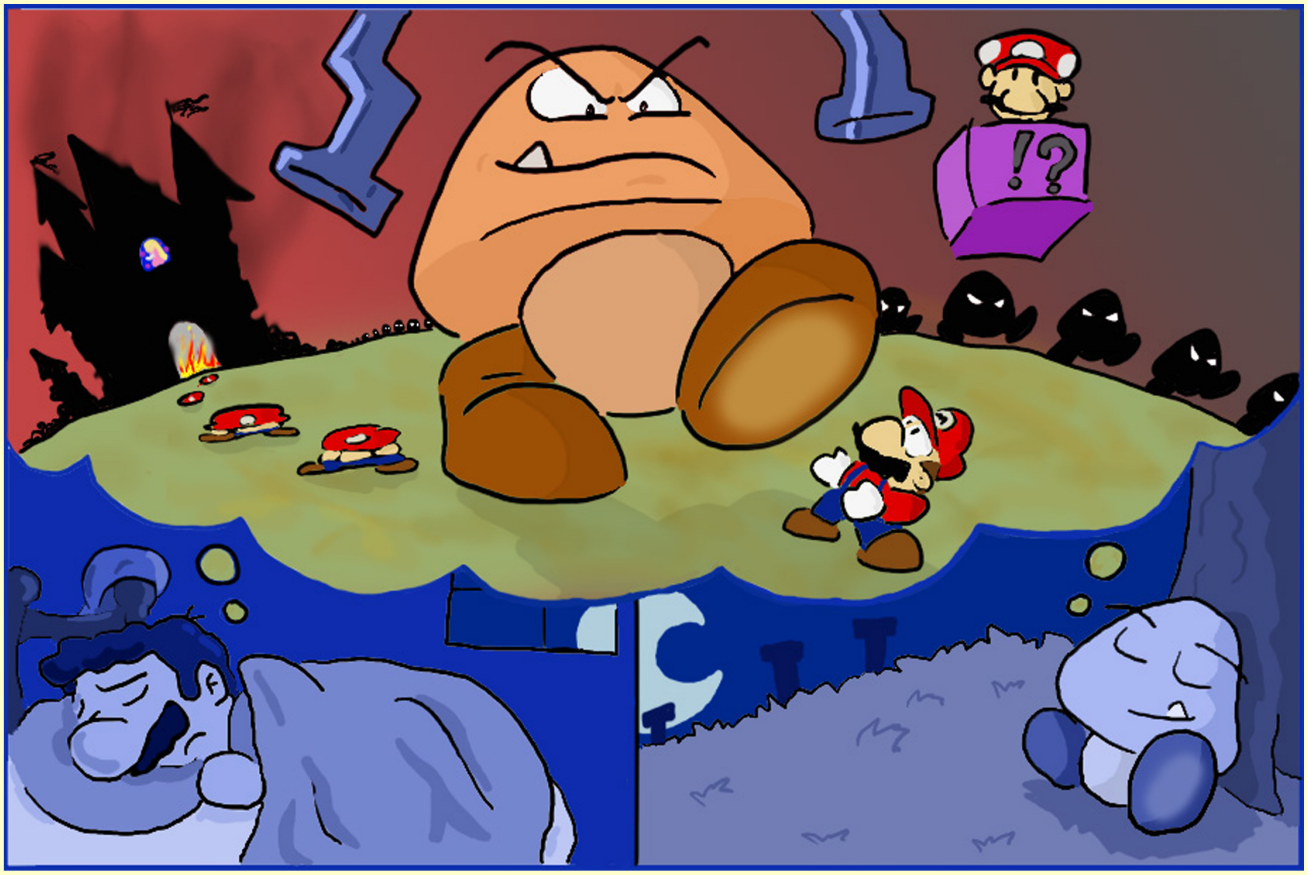
063 - Isaac



064 - Bob-Omb

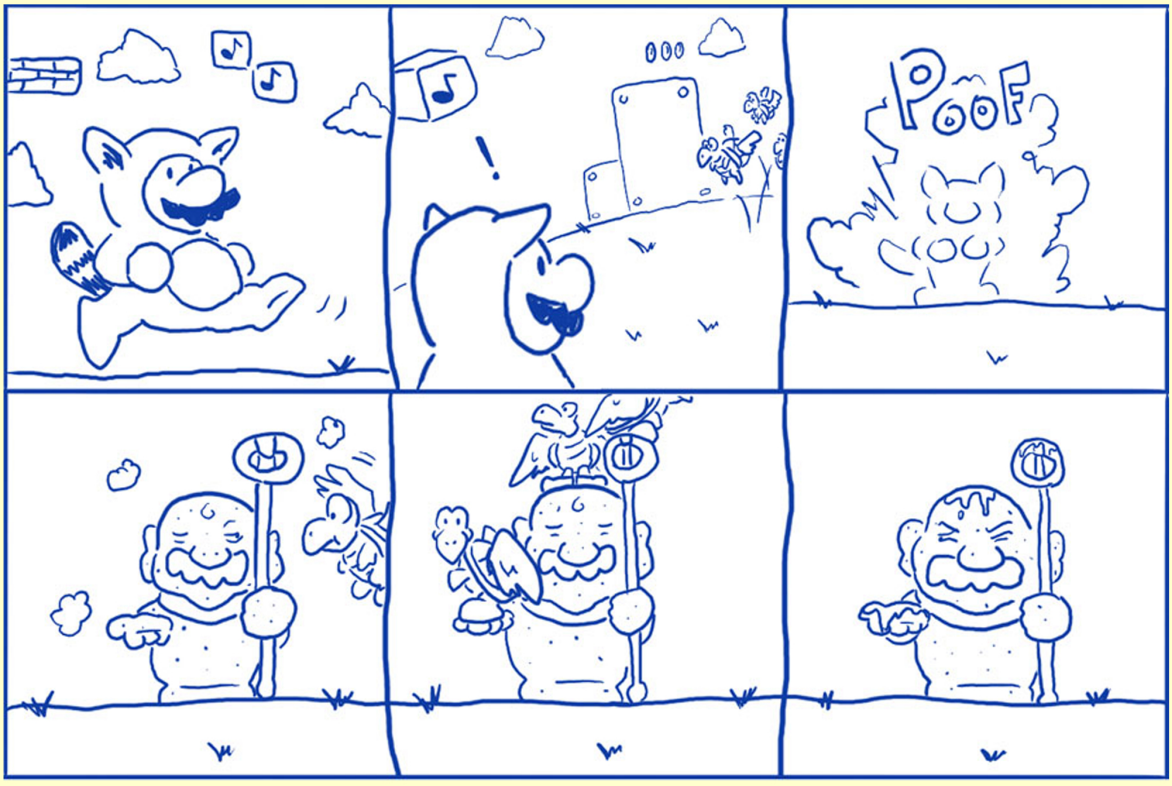


065 - Dream

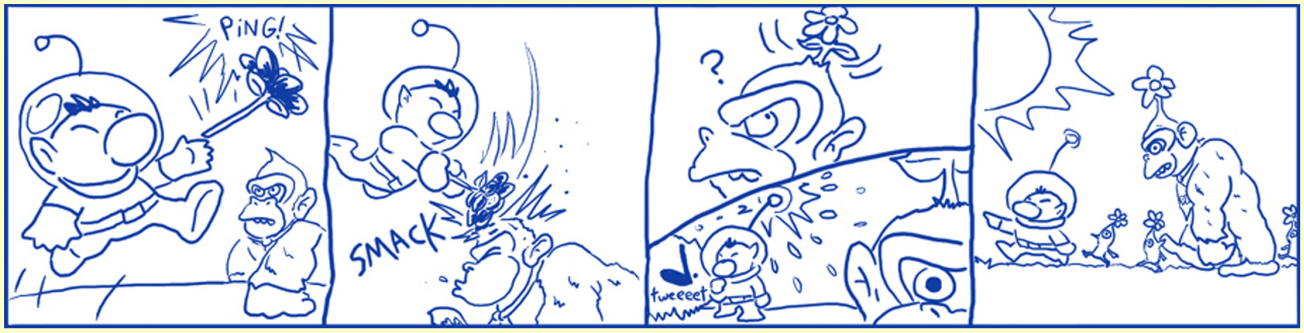


066 - Costume Party

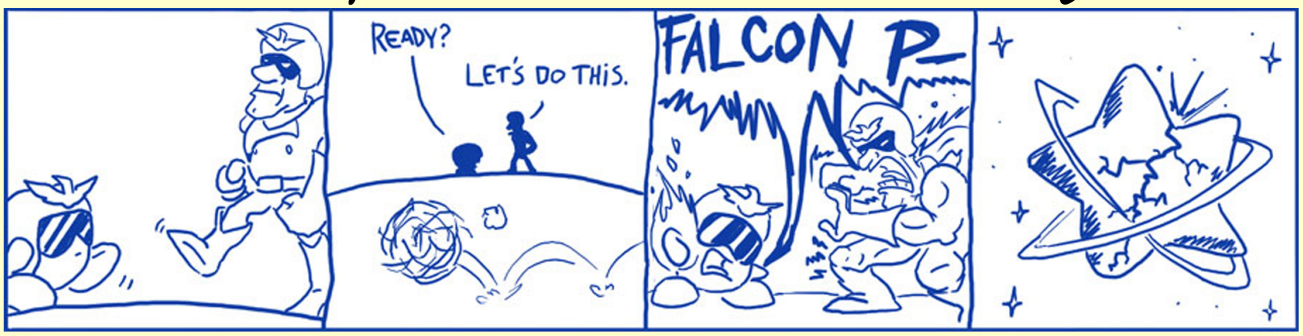
067 - Tanooki Suit



068 - Lip's Stick



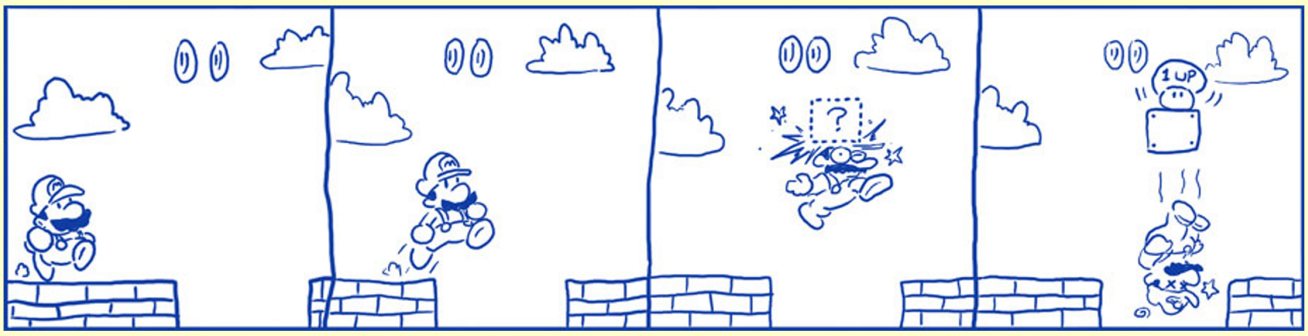
069 - Captain Falcon and Kirby



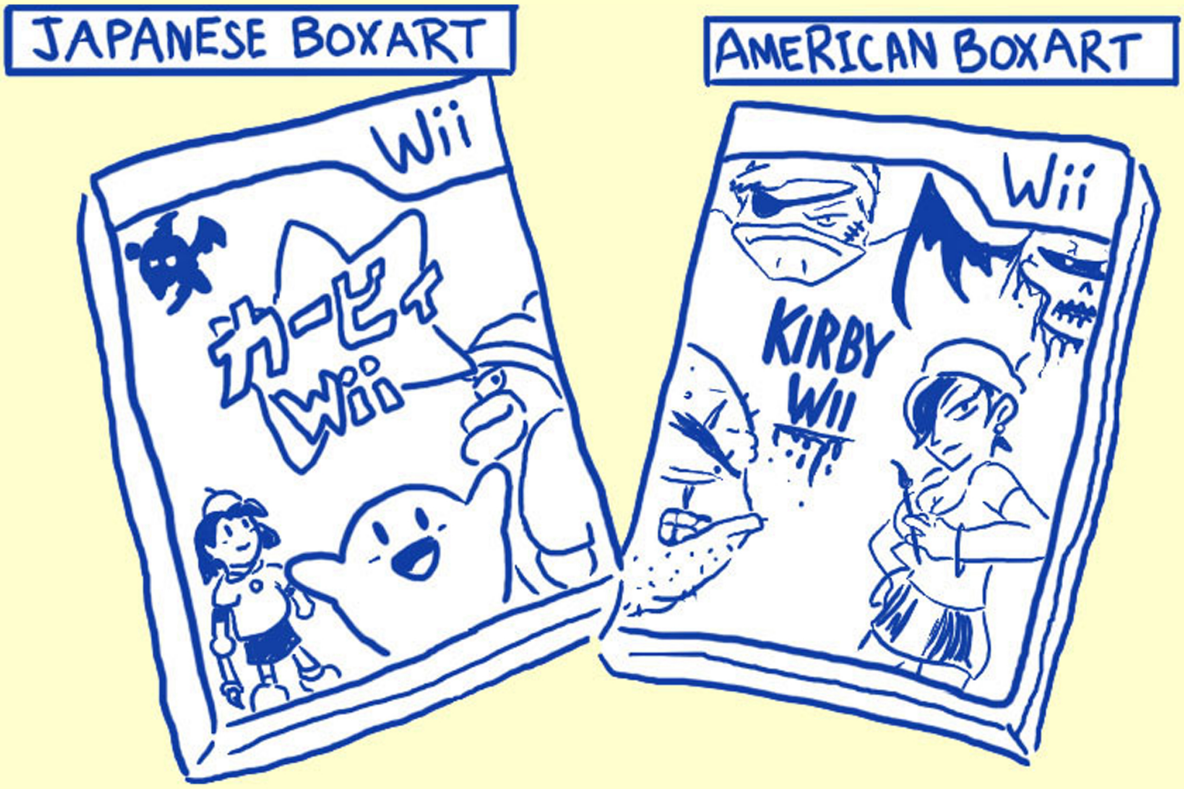
070 - Summit

I remember having no ideas coming up on this update day, when this one popped into my head in the eleventh hour. The art started getting a little more detailed around this point.

071 - Hidden Block



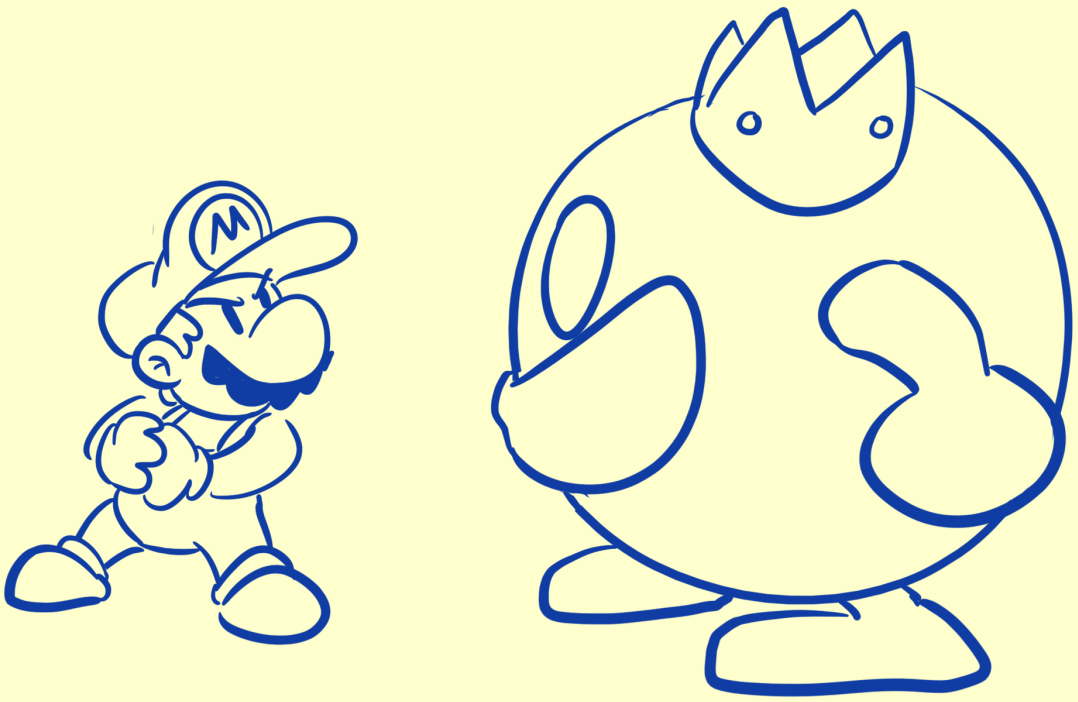
072 - Boxart



This strip became one of the example images on a website called "TV Tropes" (along with the Waluigi strips). In fact, they have a pretty comprehensive section on Brawl in the Family itself!

073 - Awakening

074 - Groceries



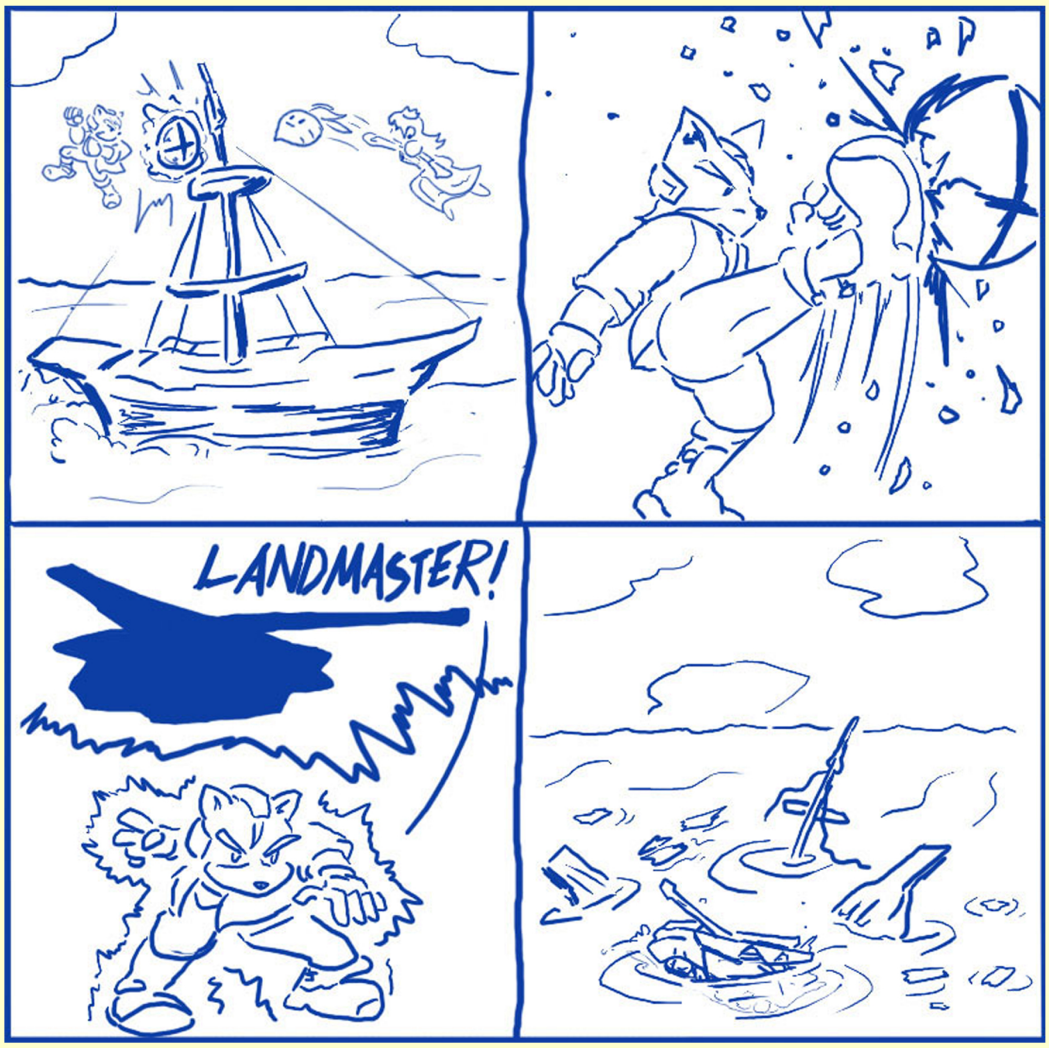
075 - Paintings

076 - Disguises

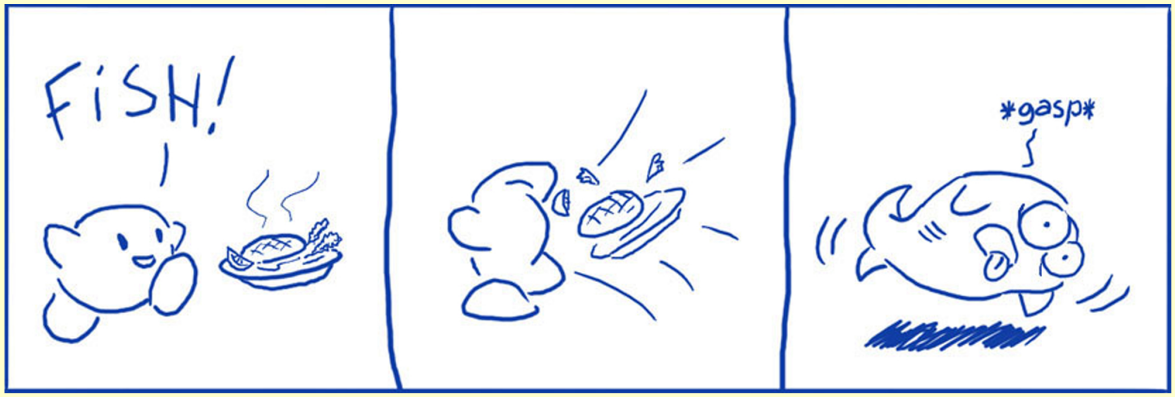
077 - No Sympathy

As a native of Louisiana, I happen in to get caught up in quite a few hurricanes. Back in late 2008, "Hurricane Ike" hit the coast, and I figured there had to be a comic there. In retrospect, it might've not been the most tasteful approach.

078 - Landmaster



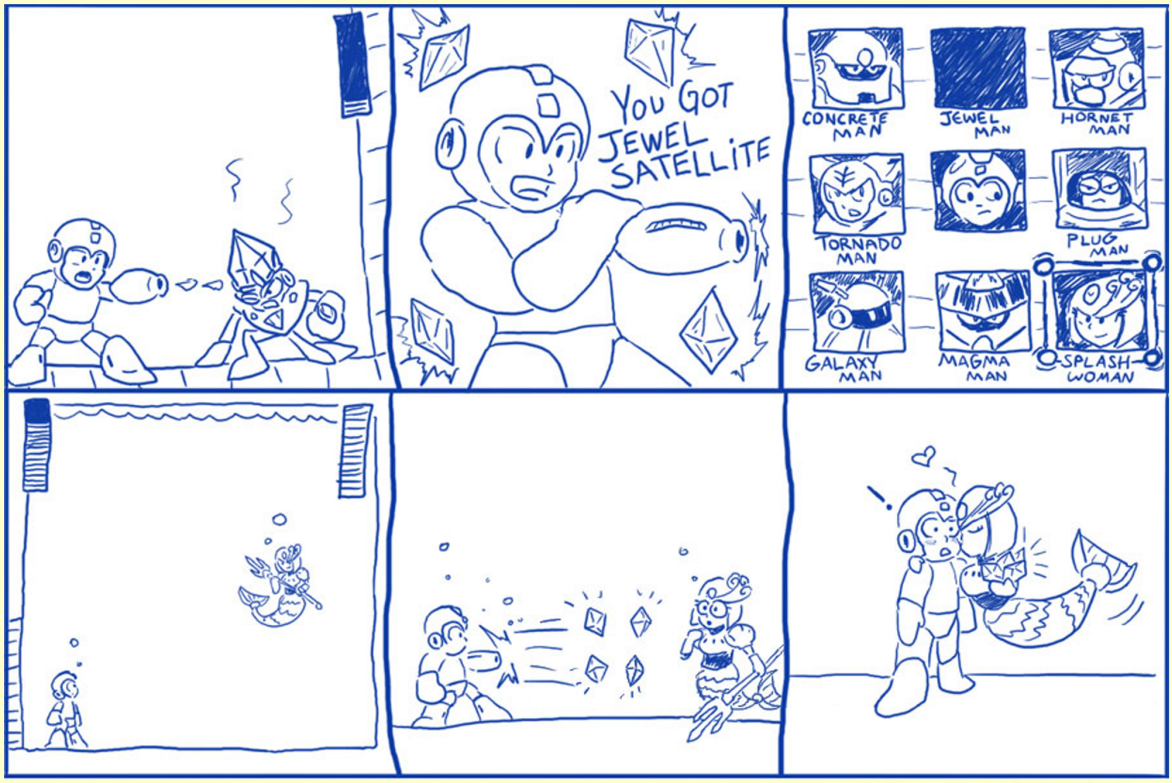
079 - Fish



080 - Owner's Guide

After comic 045, every fifth strip would be in color, and so with these color strips, I'll often try some quirkier or more ambitious ideas. Lucario as a dog was fun to draw, particularly in the hugging image.

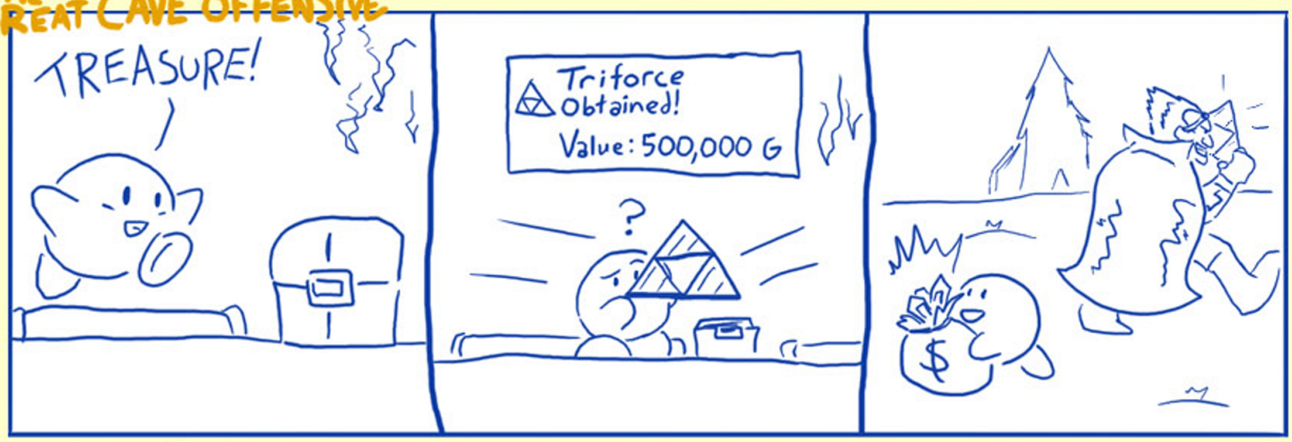
081 - Weakness



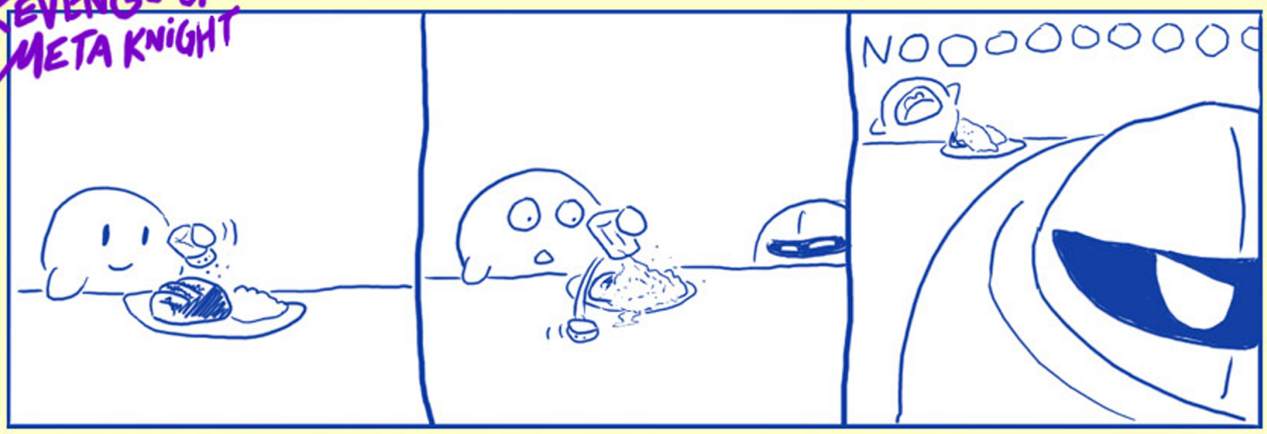
The above strip is one of the few that doesn't feature a Nintendo character. I make exceptions for third-party characters that I really like, such as Mega Man here.

082 - Super Star

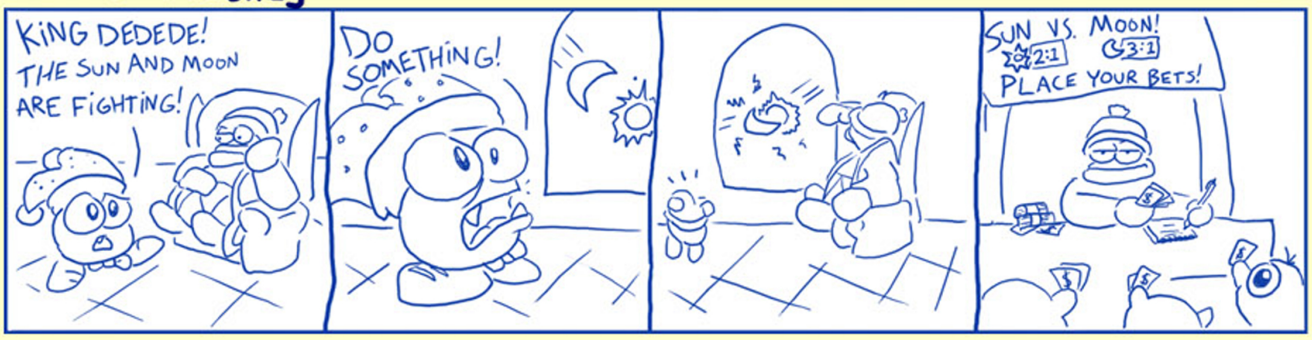
The Great Cave Offensive



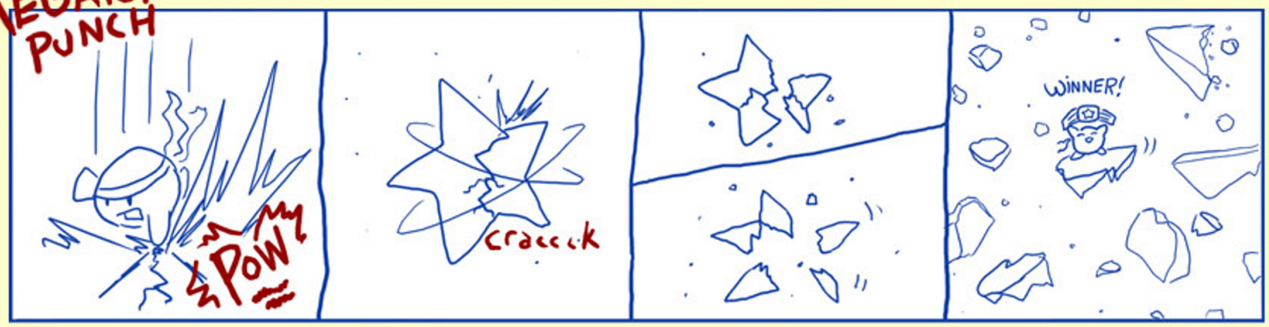
Revenge of Meta Knight

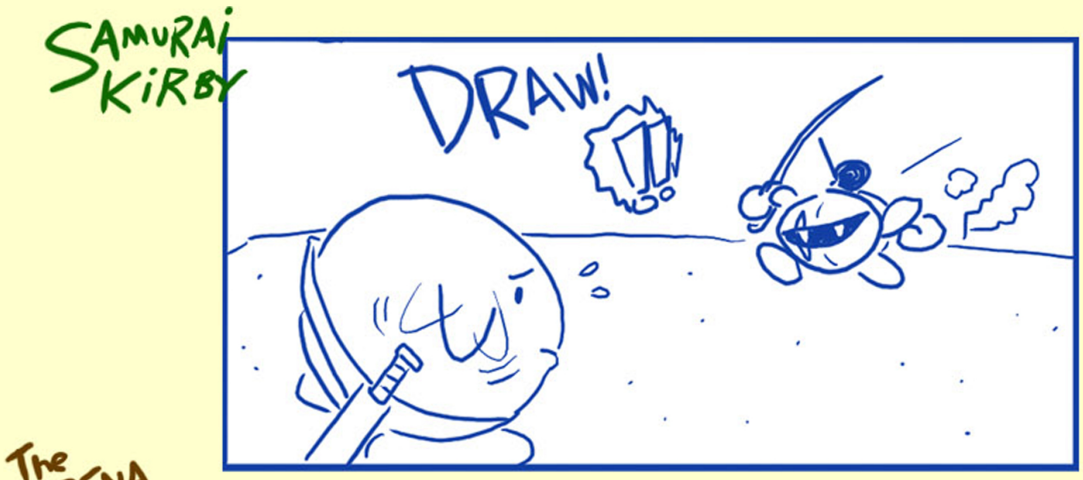


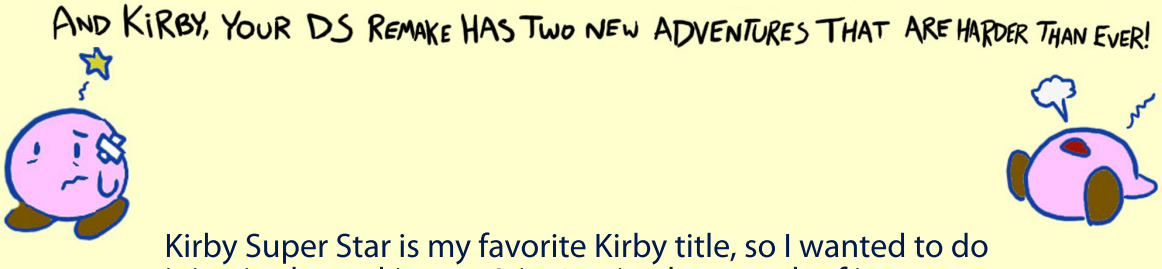
Milky Way Wishes



Megaton Punch



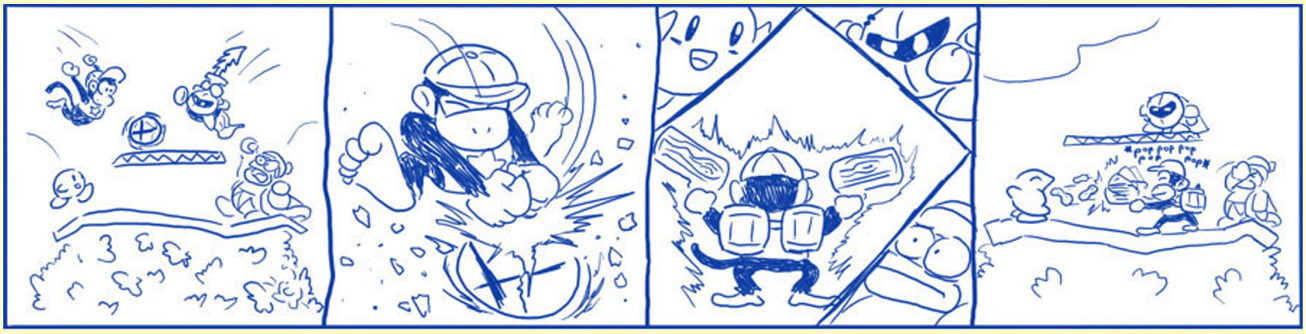




Kirby Super Star is my favorite Kirby title, so I wanted to do it justice by making an 8-in-1 strip about each of its games.

083 - Shake It

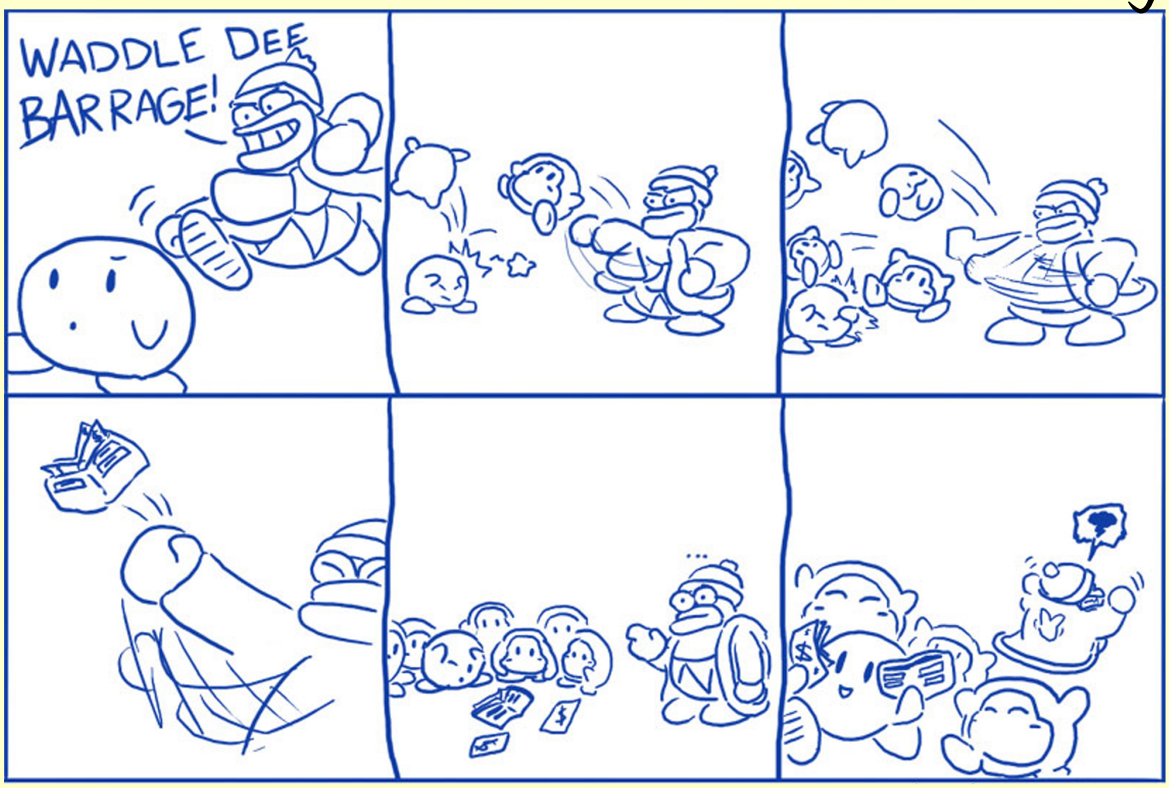
084 - Team Battle



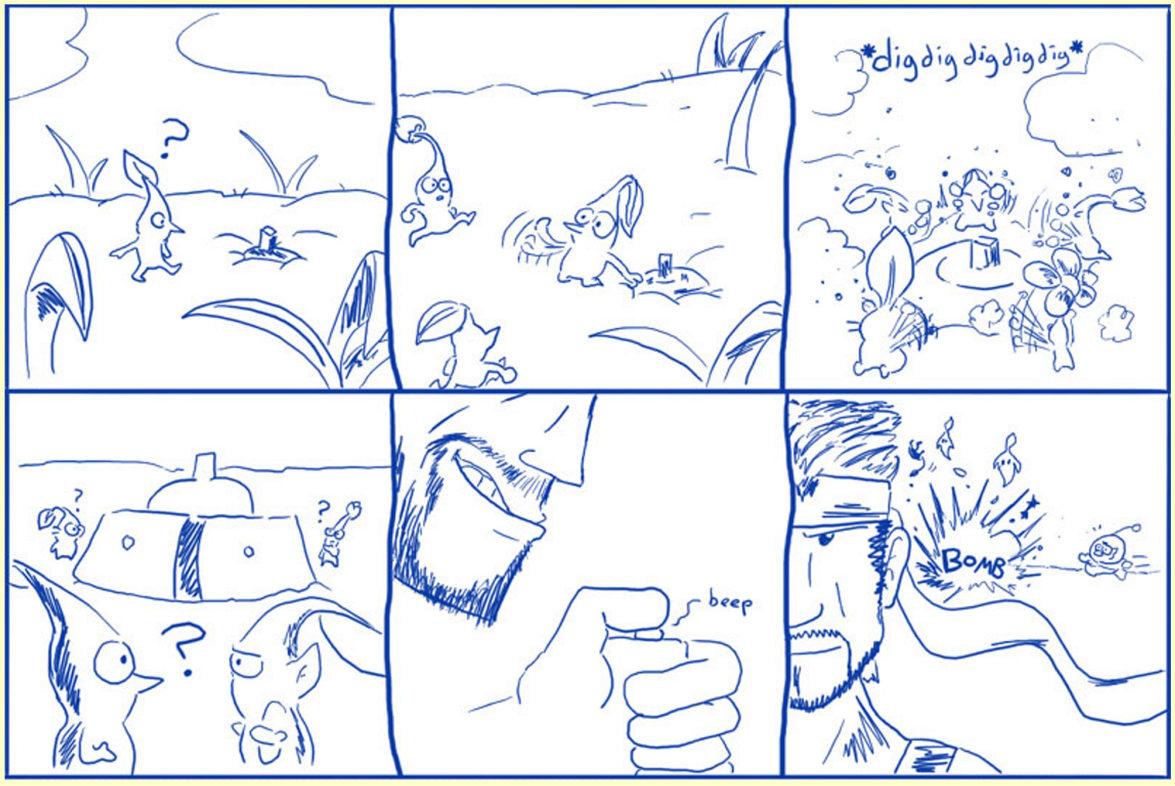
085 - Runaway Dog

086 - Pranksters

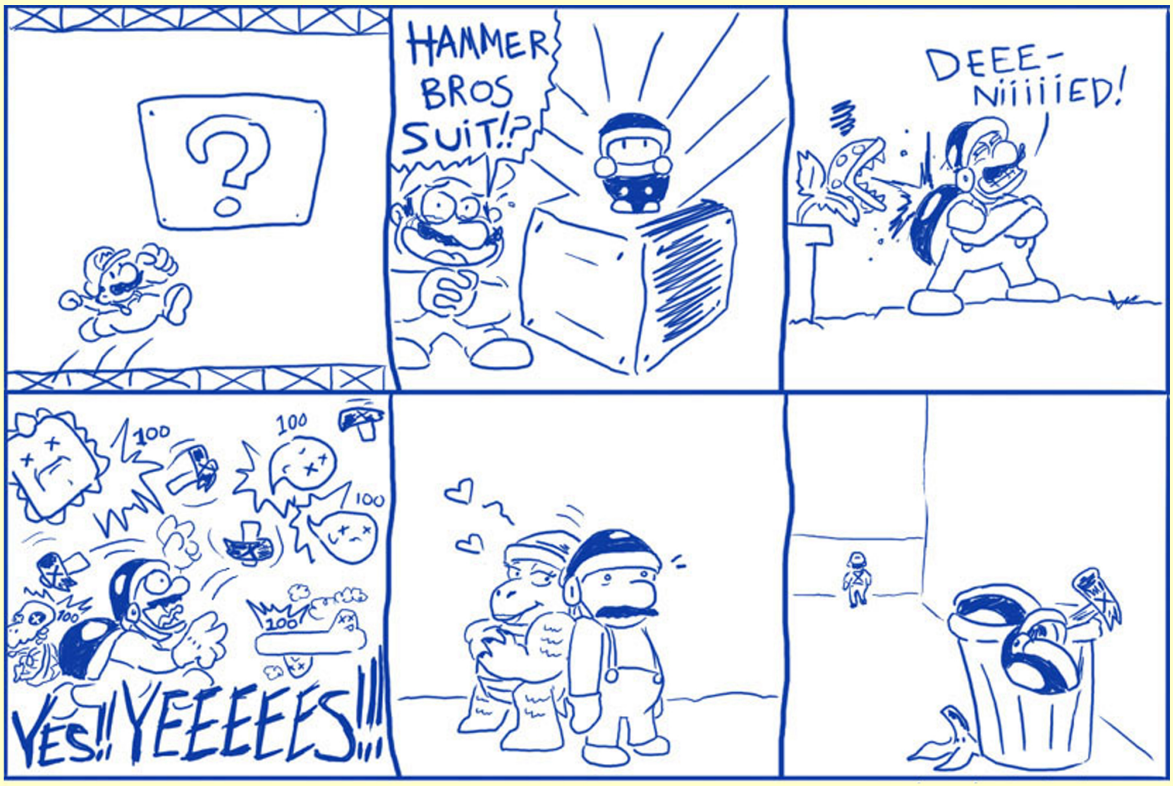
087 - Barrage



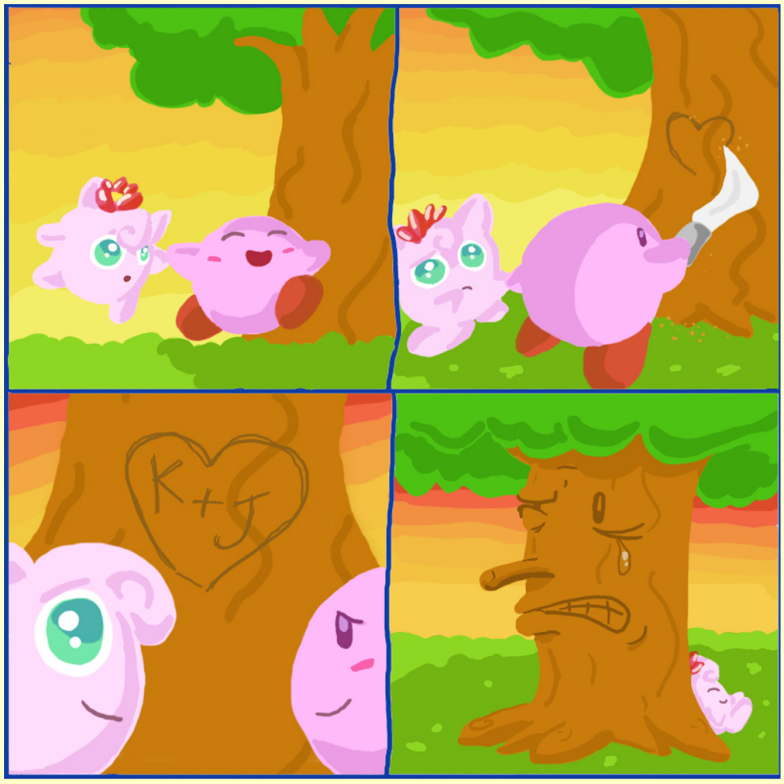
088 - Buried Prize



089 - Hammer Bros. Suit

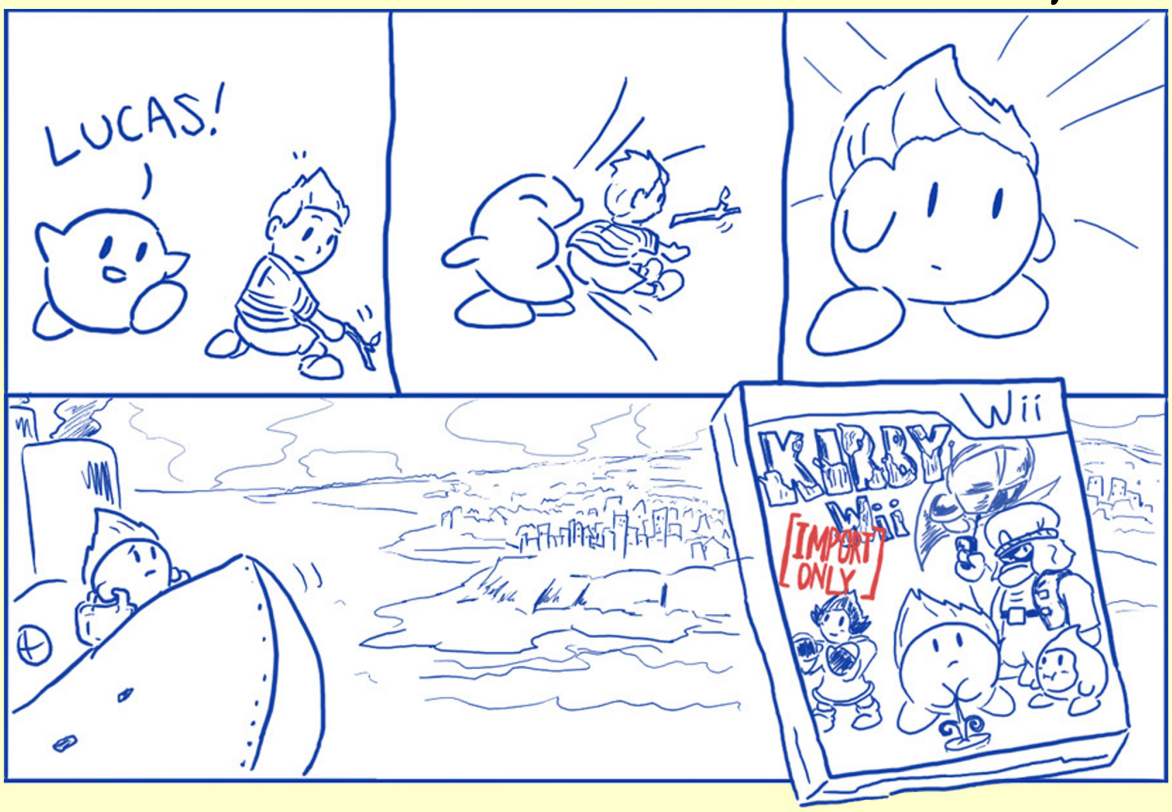


090 - Love



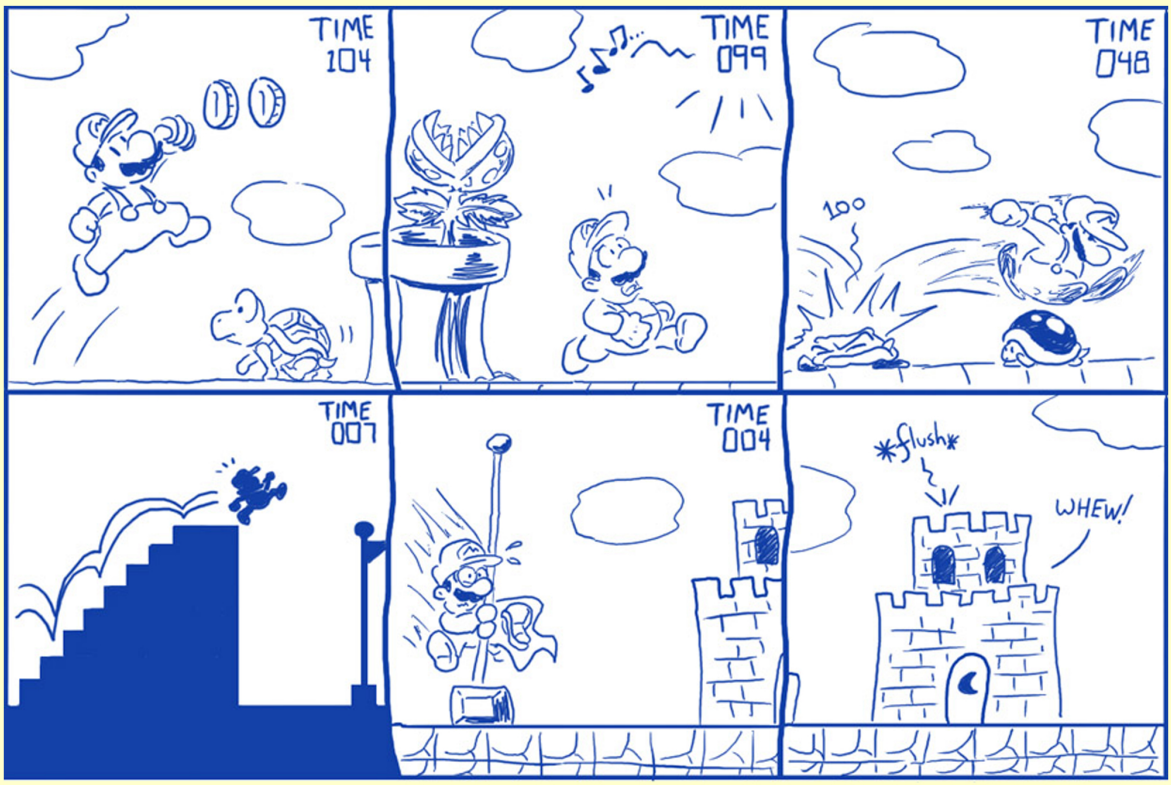
091 - Old Sonic

092 - Deport



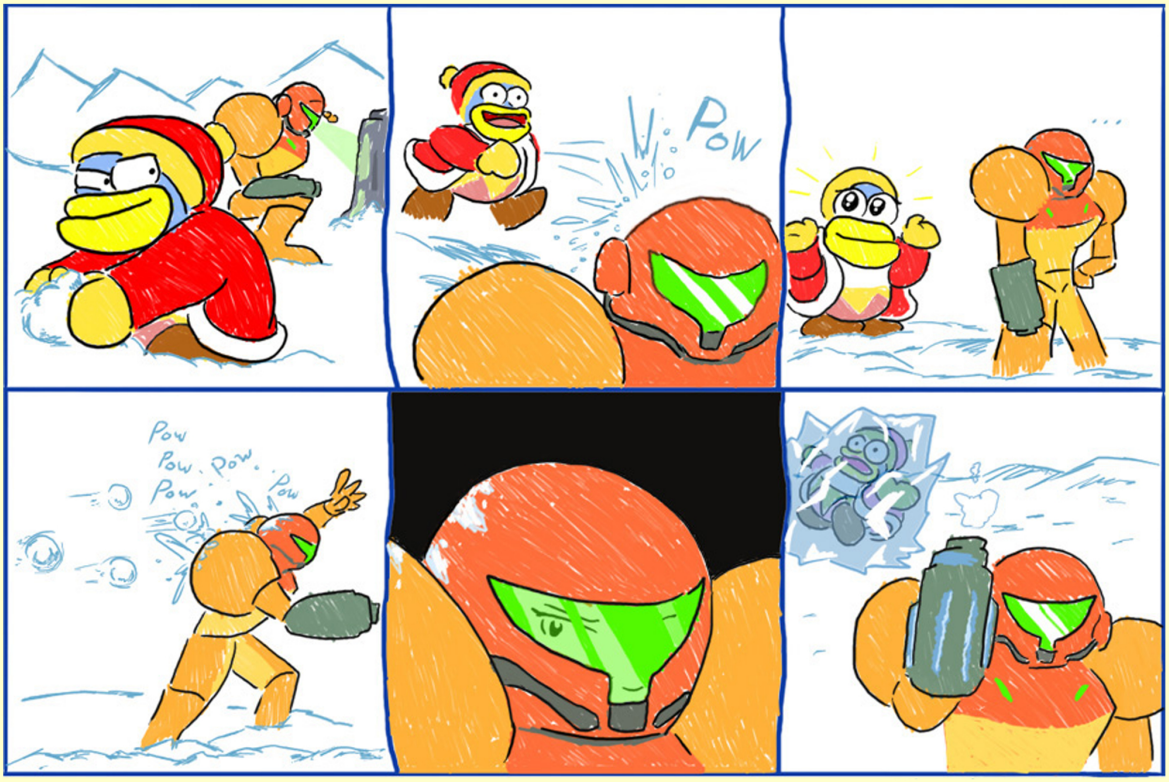
The Mother/EarthBound series is absolutely one of my favorites and contains an impassioned fanbase that I'm proud to be a part of. This was a bit of a Mother 3 homage as well as a comment on how Nintendo of America didn't localize said game for release in the States. The characters on the boxart in this strip resemble the Mother 3 cast. I'd highly recommend this game to all Nintendo fans...but be sure to have a handkerchief ready!

093 - Timer



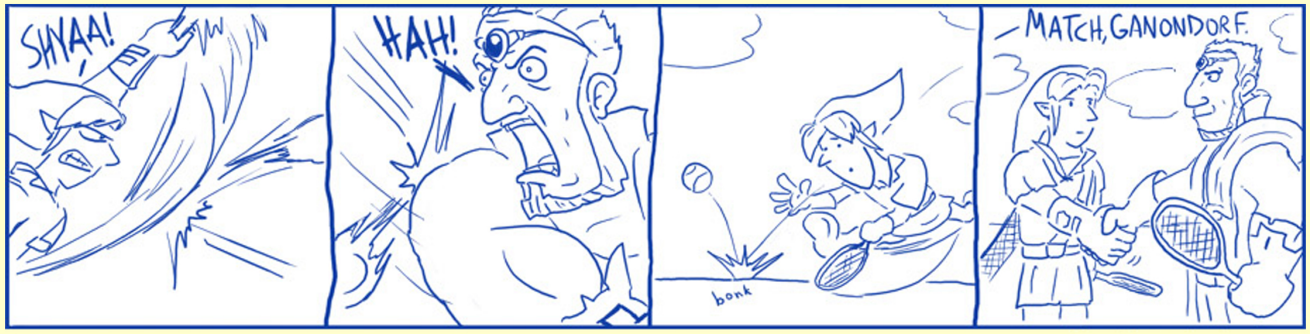
094 - Furniture

095 - Phendrana



096 - Captain Falcon Plays Poker

097 - Back and Forth



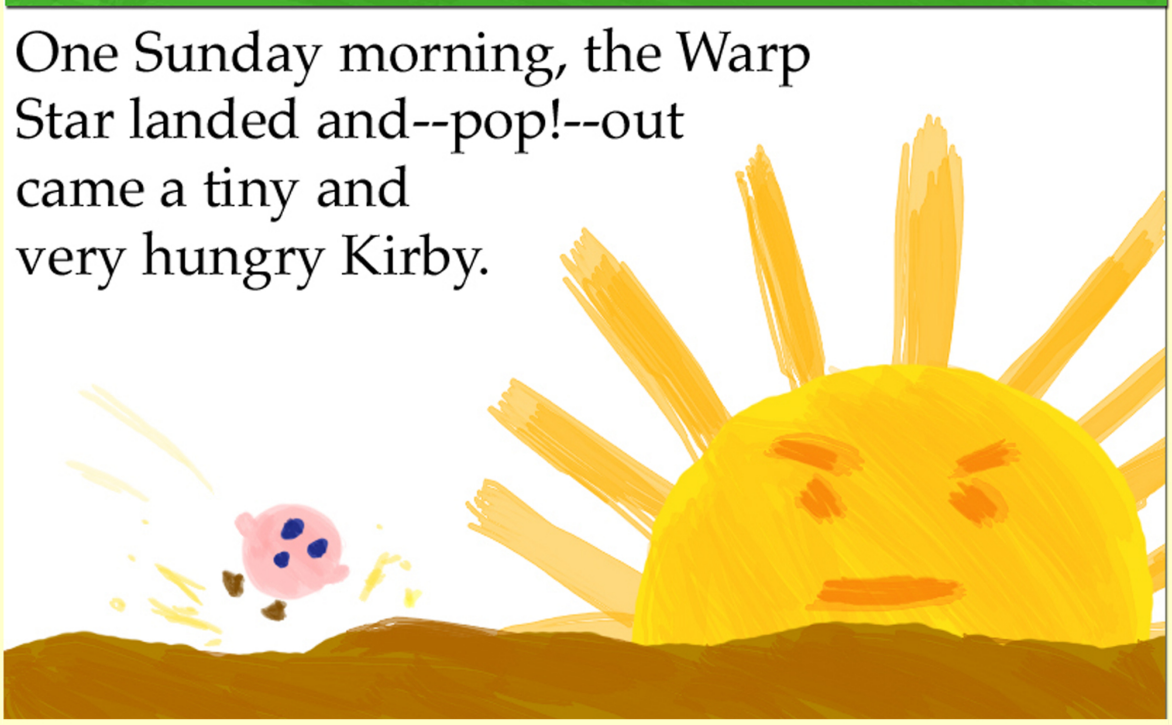
098 - Trick or Treat

099 - Fishin' Lakitu

THE VERY HUNGRY KIRBY

By Matthew Taranto

100 - The Very Hungry Kirby



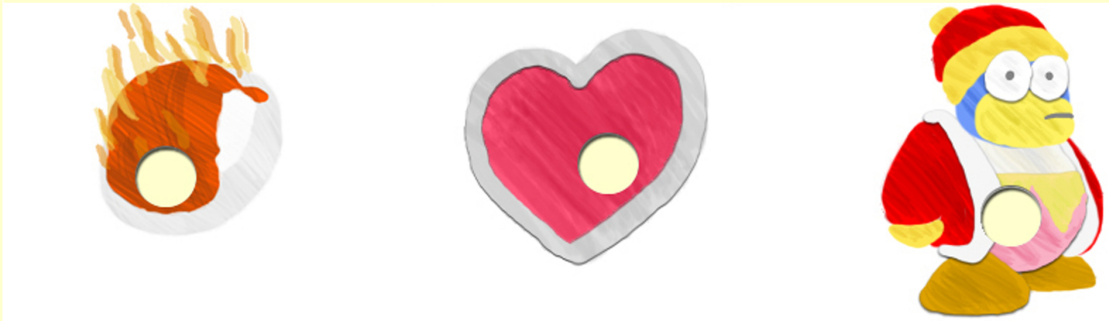
On Monday he ate through one Maxim Tomato. But he was still hungry.

n Tuesday he te through wo Pep Brews. ut he was still ungry.

On Wednesday he ate through three candies. But he was still hungry.

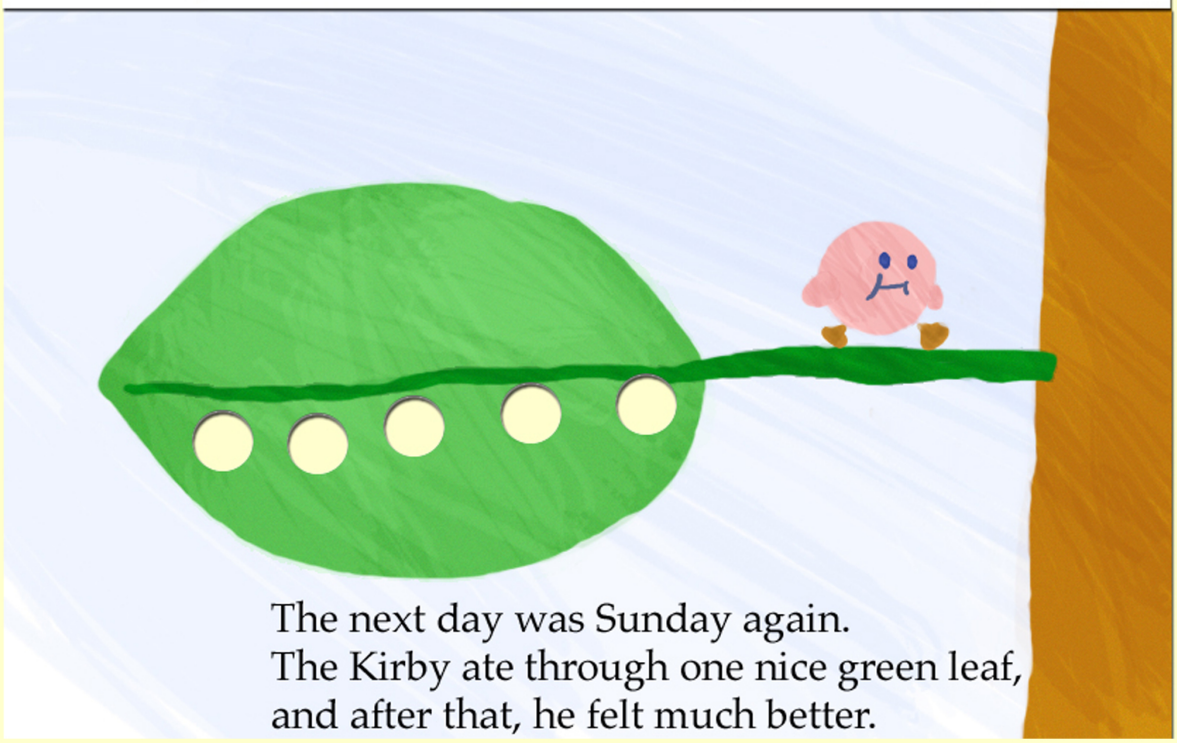
On Thursday he ate through four Star Blocks. But he was still hungry.

n Friday he e through ve Bomb Blocks. t he was still ngry.



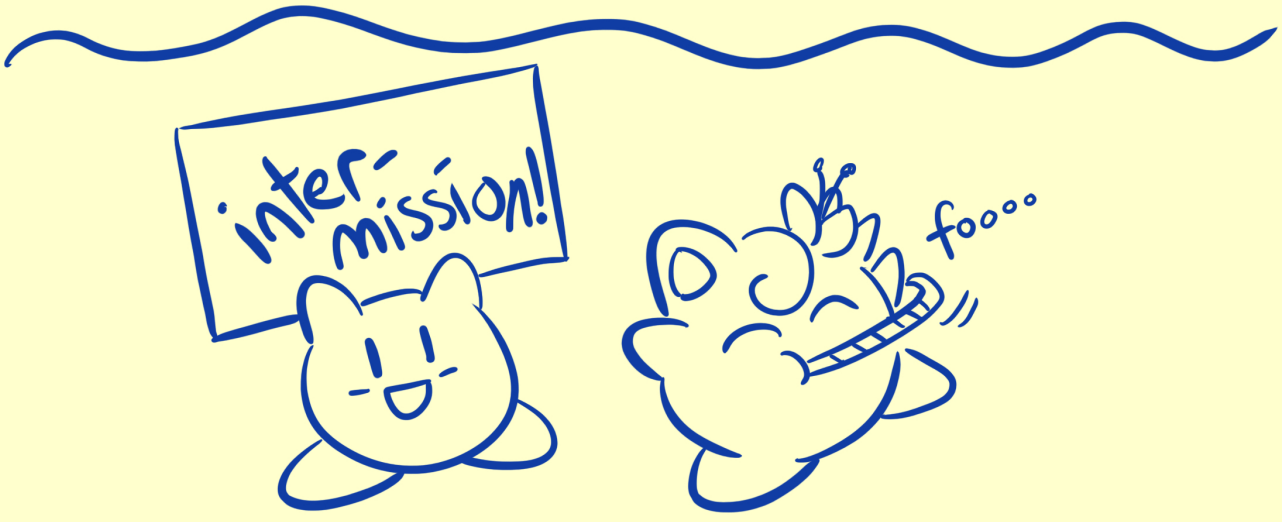
On Saturday, he ate through a plate of Superspicy Curry,
one Heart Container, King Dedede, one fish dinner,
one ugly thing, and Falco's Bread.

That night he had a stomachache!



The next day was Sunday again.
The Kirby ate through one nice green leaf,
and after that, he felt much better.

Naturally, I wanted to do something special for comic 100, so I decided to use Kirby's eating tendencies in a retelling of Eric Carle's The Very Hungry Caterpillar. The tradition of going all-out for a hundredth (200, 300, etc) strip was thus laid in stone...and sometimes it has me kicking myself because of how involved each strip ends up being.



You've made it through half of the comics in Brawl in the Family: Volume One! Time to stand up, stretch your legs, crack open a root beer and pet the dog. We'll still be here when you get back, ready to regale you with ridiculous monkeyshines of gluttony, mischief, and clock-cleaning.

101 - Forsaken Fortress

102 - Supplies

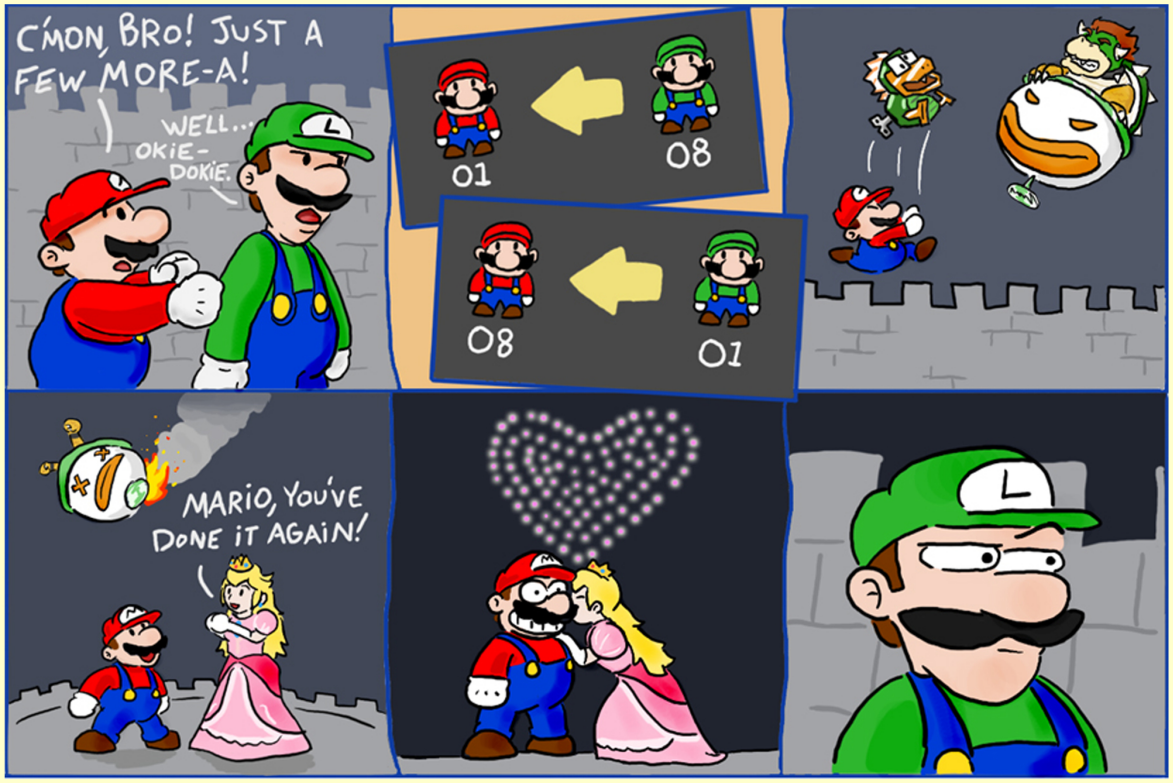
103 - Dededoo

And here we have one of those silly scenarios where the character's behavior doesn't entirely make sense after you read it. Despite this (or because of it?), this strip and Kingsonnn Dededoo himself are both rather popular with the fans. A lot of them would like to see more of the deceptively-friendly, trench coat-clad clock-cleaner, and I'd be happy to oblige if I could think of natural scenarios where he'd be involved.

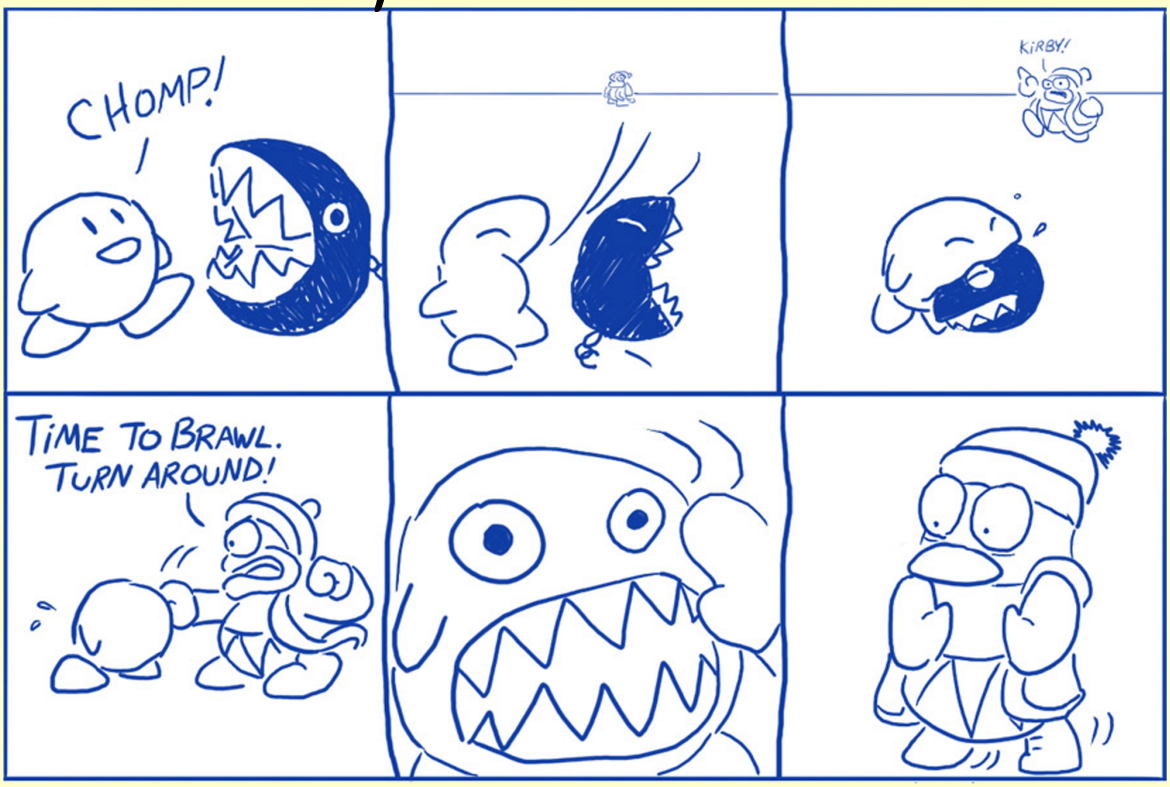
104 - Cardboard Box

I haven't played much Metal Gear Solid, but since Snake is a playable character in Super Smash Bros. Brawl, he gets his share of BitF comics as well.

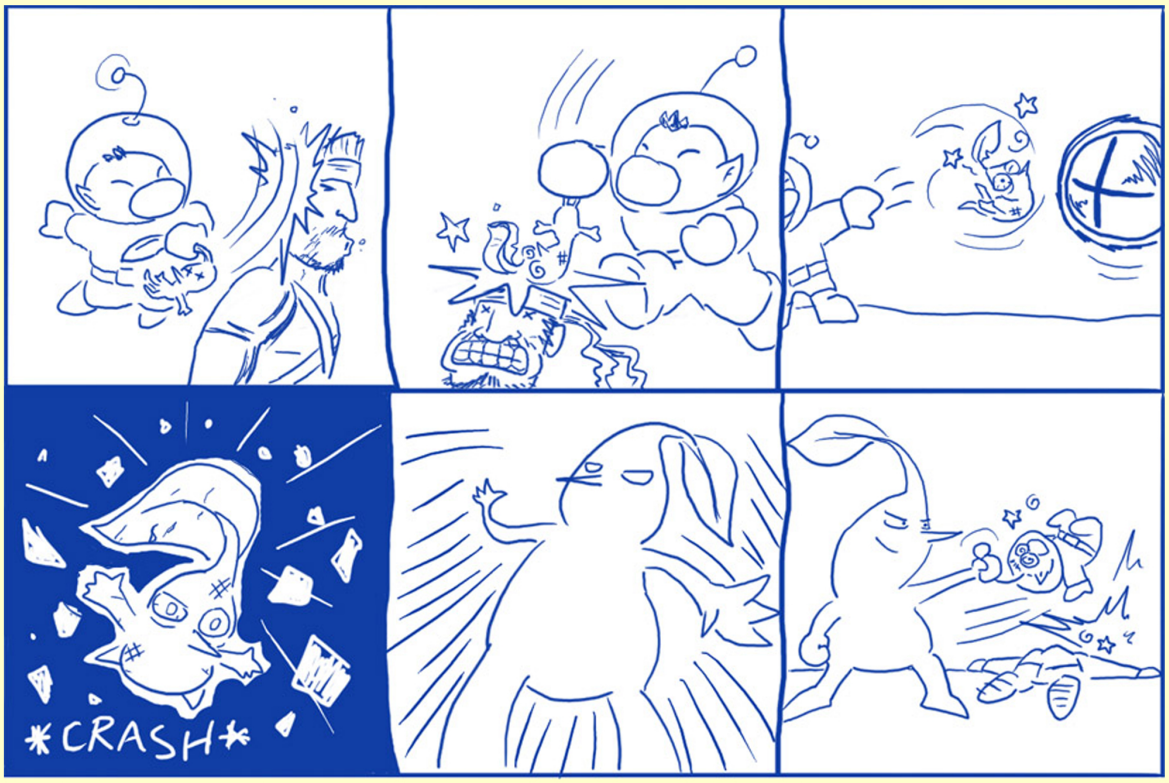
105 - Life Share



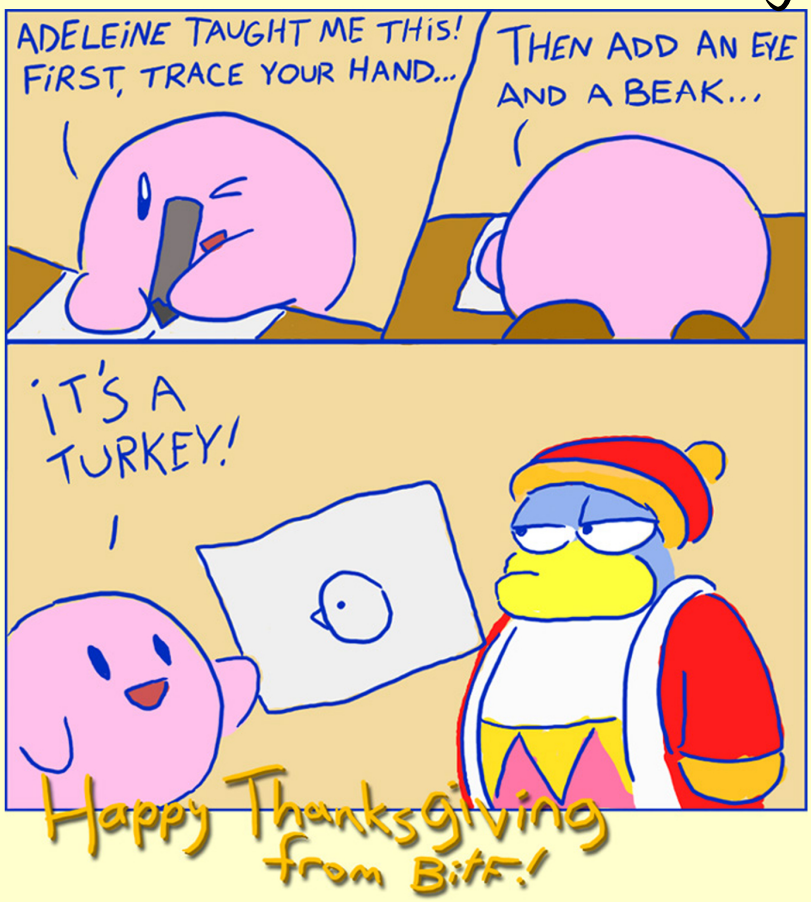
106 - Chomp



107 - Pikmin Abuse



108 - Thanksgiving



109 - Aged

110 - Town Folk

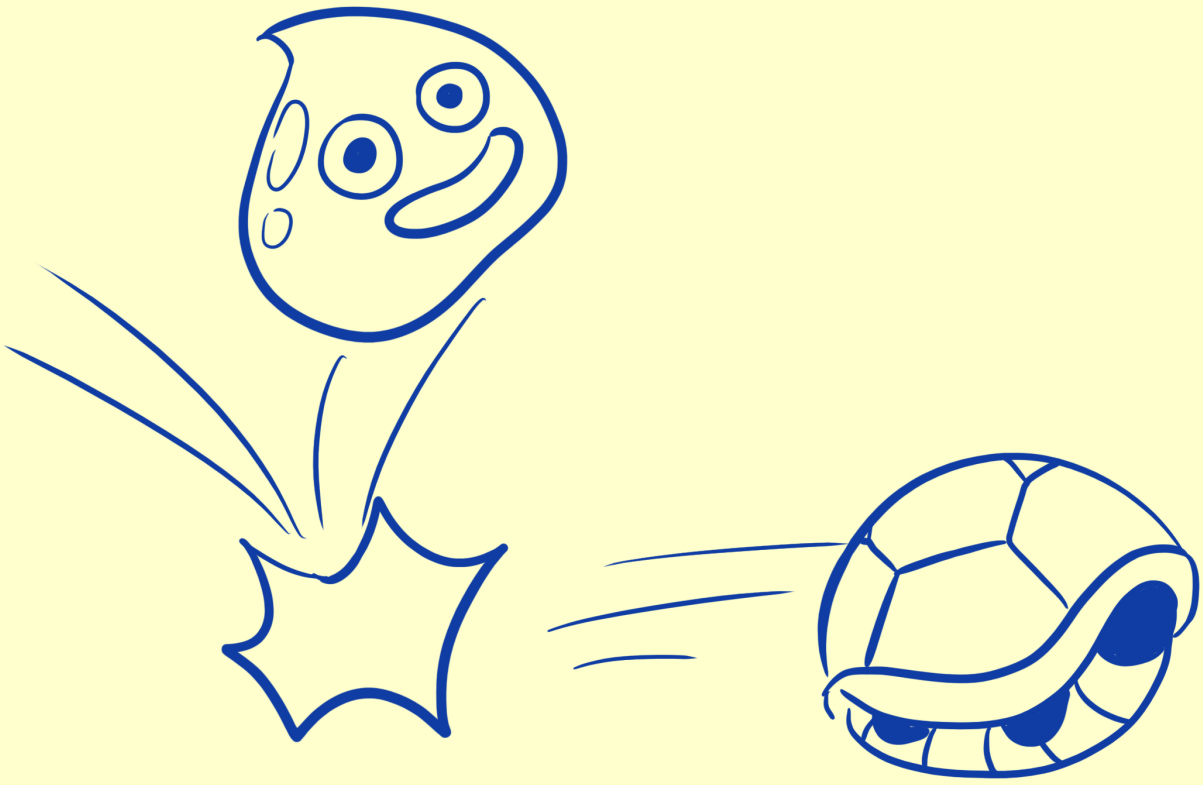
Returning to Animal Crossing only to be greeted with a town in shambles is a familiar situation to me. This melancholy strip was fun to experiment with, both in terms of tone and the art.

111 - Clog

112 - Wingmates

113 - Prodigal Son

This strip is referencing Dragon Quest 9 being announced for the Nintendo DS. It had been the first time a DQ game would release for a Nintendo system since the days of the SNES, so I felt a homecoming comic would be appropriate.



How The King
Stole Christmas

114 - How the King Stole Christmas (Part 1)

"And thanks to this hammer...
Whhrrr
I've got a great sled!
FOOM!!
If I can't find a reindeer,
I'll make one instead!"
"But I need a St. Nick suit," he said with a sigh.
"And where would I get THAT...?"
"Let's make some kids cry!"

115 - How the King Stole Christmas (Part 2)

Okay, so naturally this doesn't work quite as well without sound! With the extra freedom of a webcomic, one of my goals with BitF was to do things that wouldn't normally be possible with a print comic, and this is one of them--upon visiting the site on this update day, viewers were greeted with a parody song recorded and sung by me, and encouraged to follow along with the strip itself. This style of "musical comic" became a mainstay in BitF, leading to some of the most popular strips. Unfortunately, it doesn't carry over the same way into print, but if you have an internet connection, you can always check out the song itself on www.brawlinthefamily.com!

Sorry for the interruption--now please continue to enjoy "How the King Stole Christmas"!

116 - How the King Stole Christmas (Part 3)

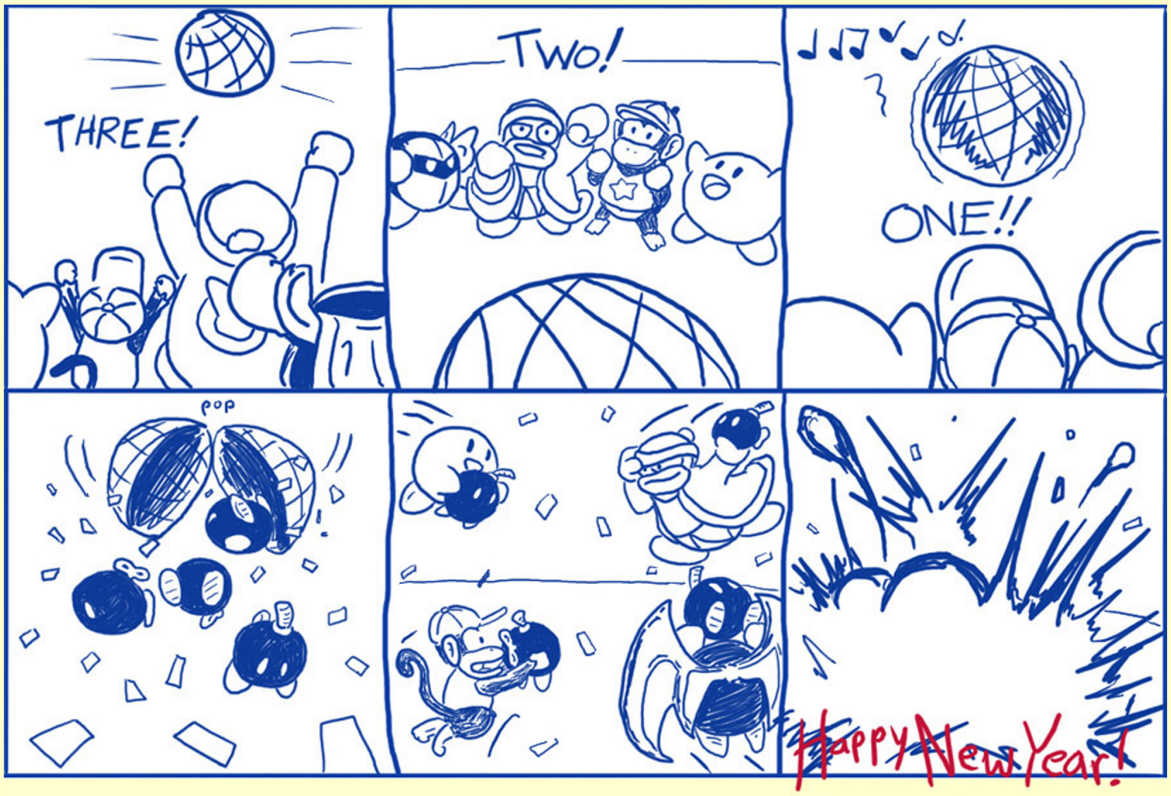
Then he hopped in his sled!
He blasted uphill,
Ready to count all his loot from Smashville!
When the King returned home, something wasn't quite right...
?!
His place had been robbed while he burgled all night!

117 - How the King Stole Christmas (Part 4)

Christmas is my favorite time of year, so I try to make BitF special during that time. This parody storyline was a great deal of work, but a lot of fun in terms of adapting Dr. Seuss's classic tale to fit the cast of the comic (music included). The story was a big hit with the fans and ended up being a nice way to close out the first year of BitF. It was also the first of several multi-part story arcs, which also became a staple of the strip.

118 - Giver

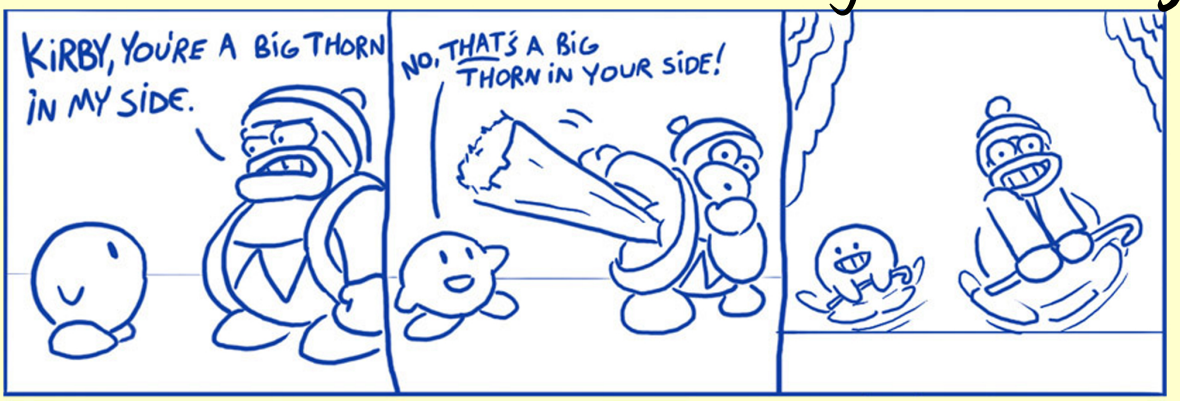
119 - New Year



120 - 120

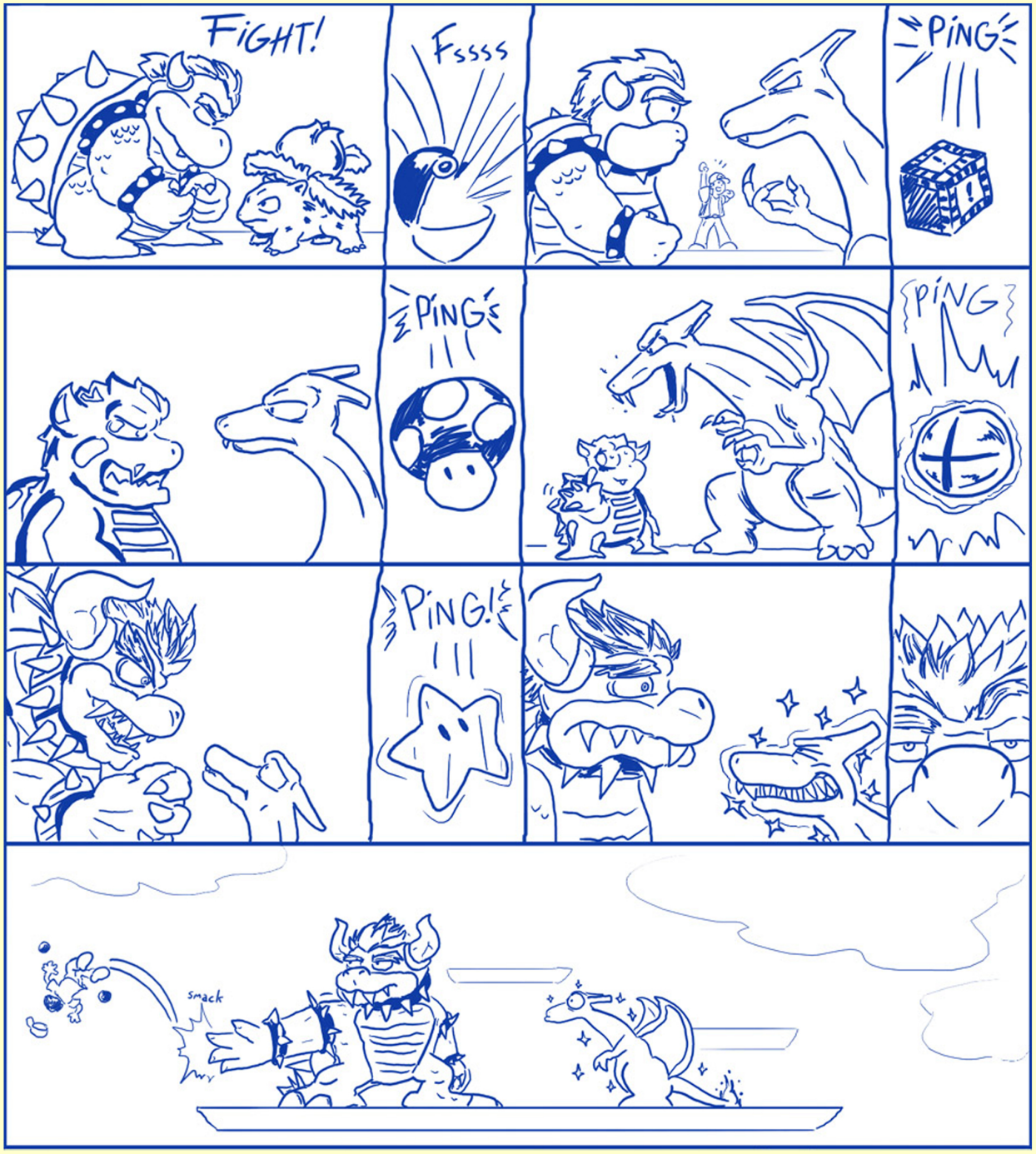
121 - Song of Time

122 - High Comedy

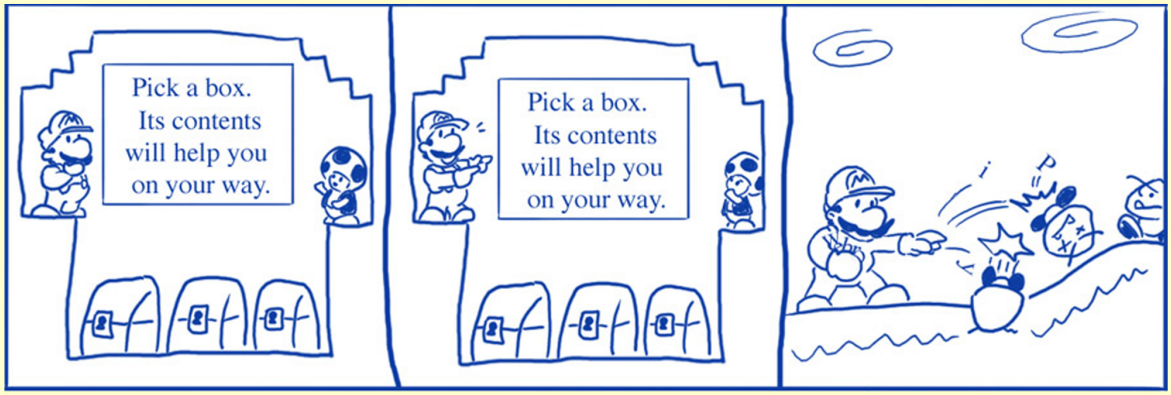


I was so worried about the reception to this silly comic that I had trouble sleeping the night it went up. It went over well though--sometimes BitF stresses me out.

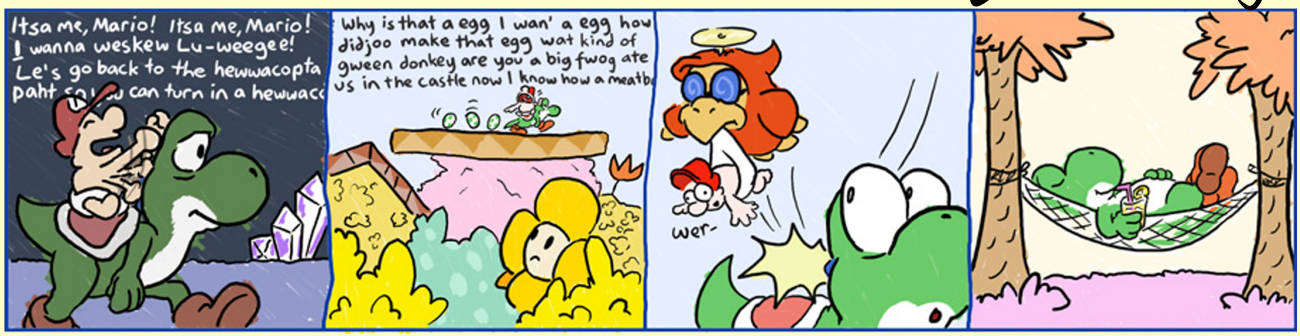
123 - Arms Race



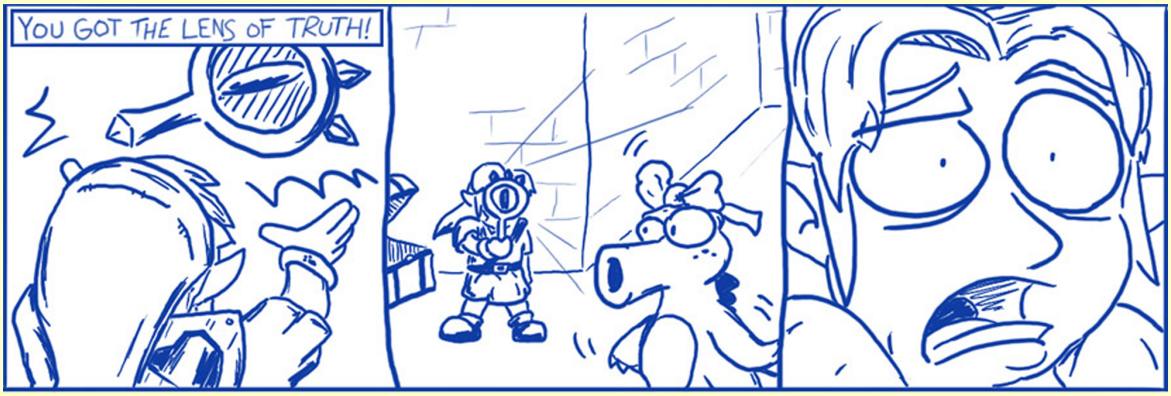
124 - Pick A Box



125 - Baby Sitting



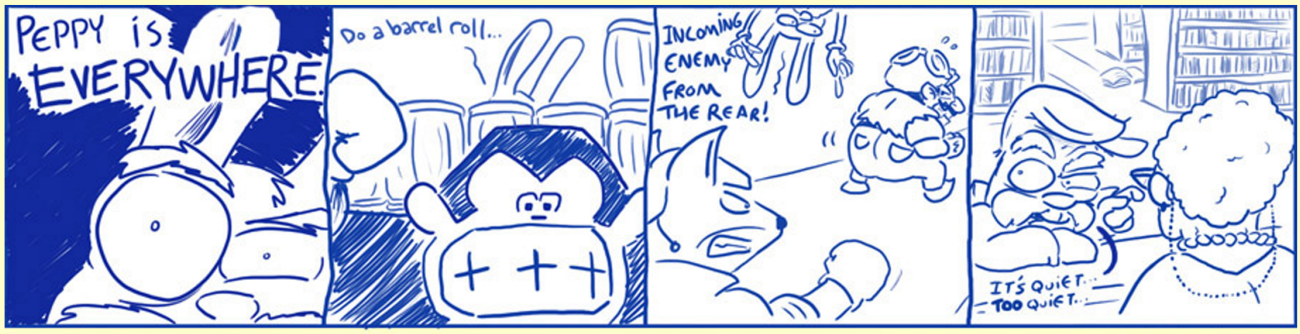
126 - Lens of Truth

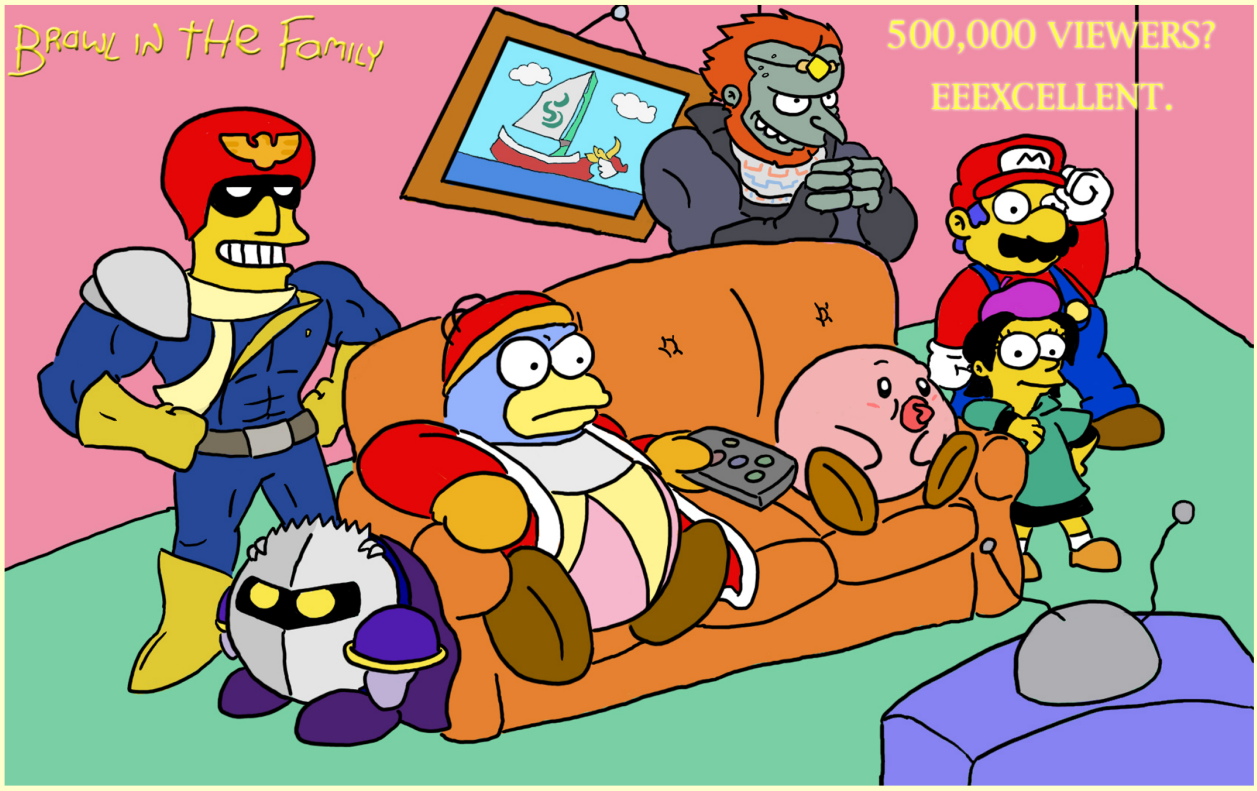


127 - Elevator

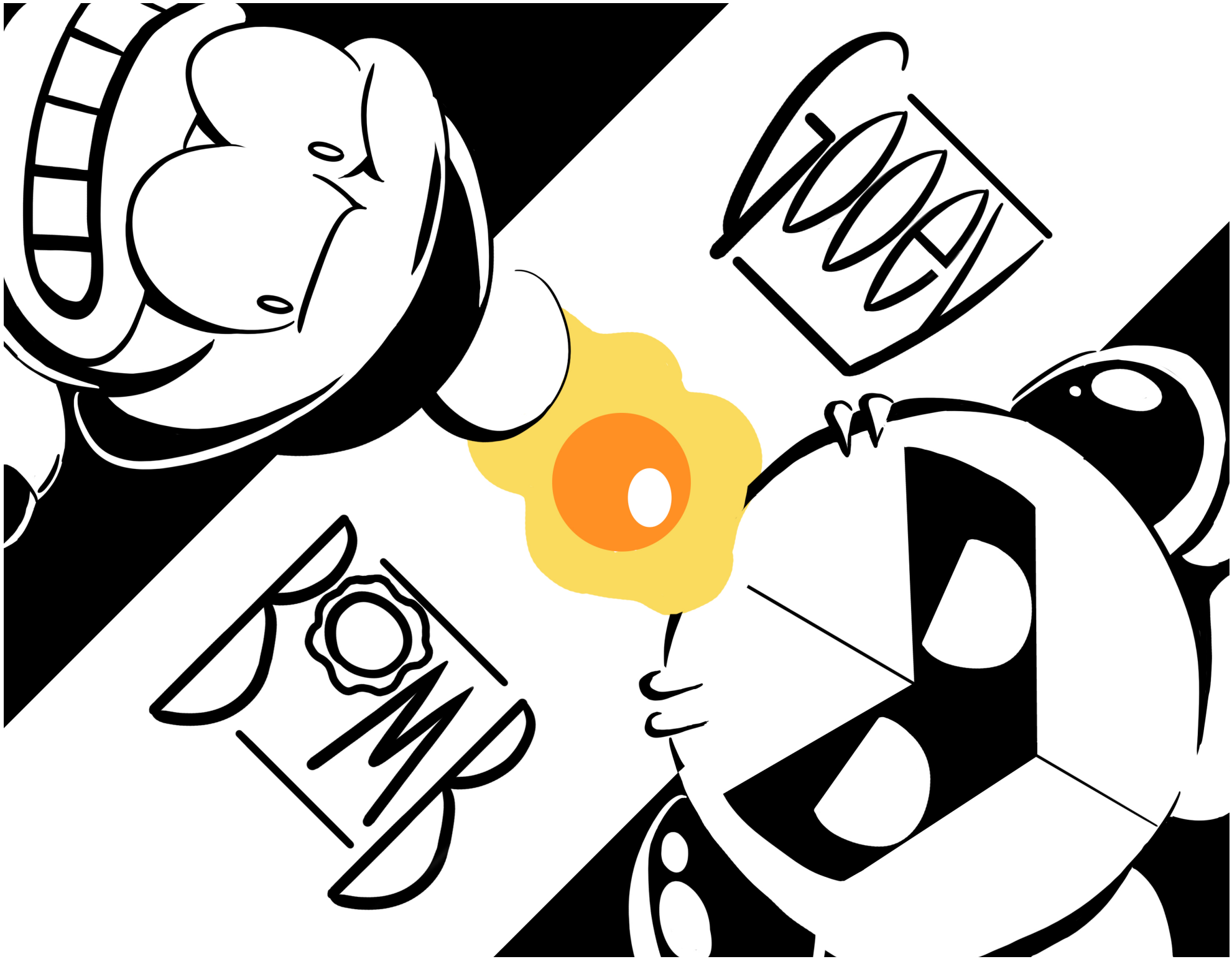
128 - Mario Party

129 - Peppy Is Everywhere





Mashing together Nintendo with my favorite show was a lot of fun. It's surprising how well Dedede fit his role as Homer.


POW
POW

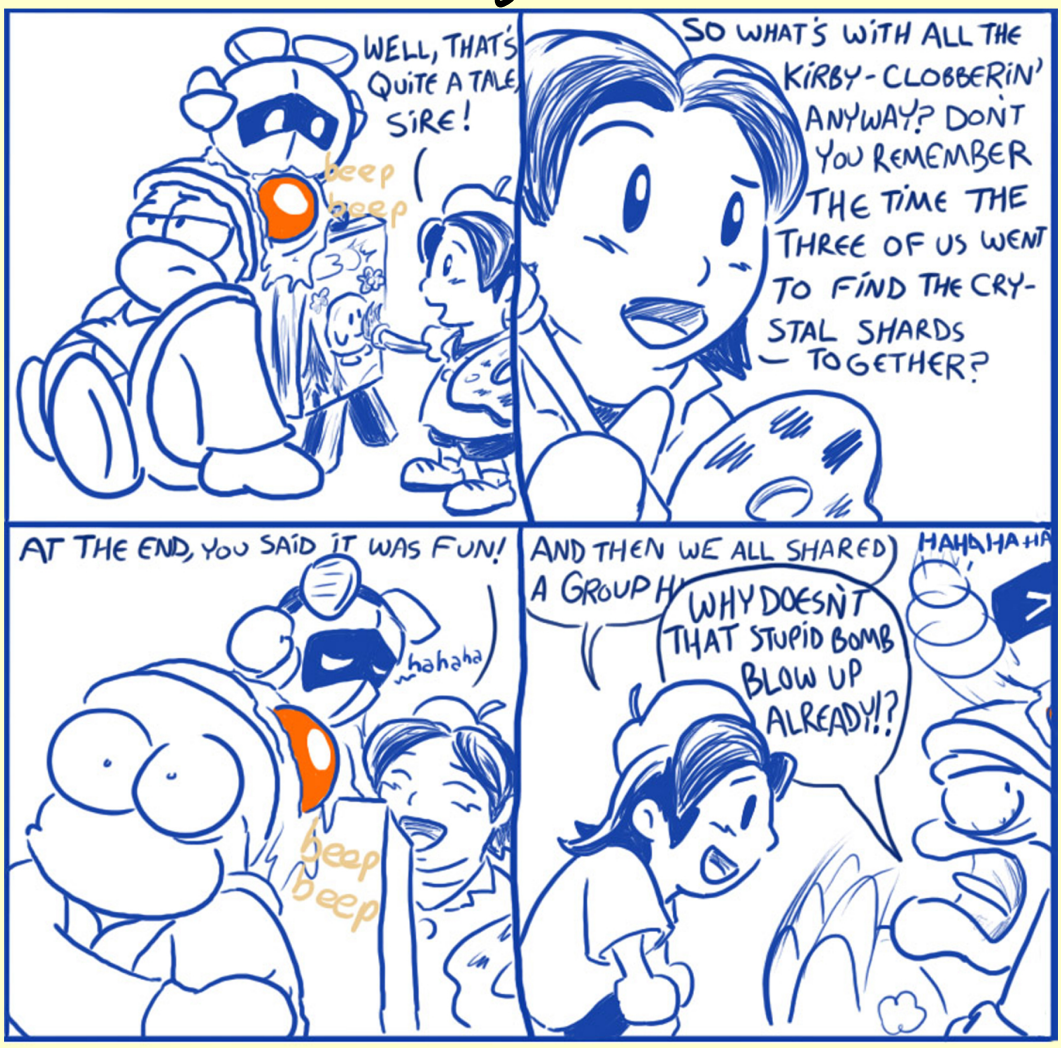
130 - Gooey Bomb (Part 1)

131 - Gooey Bomb (Part 2)

132 - Gooey Bomb (Part 3)

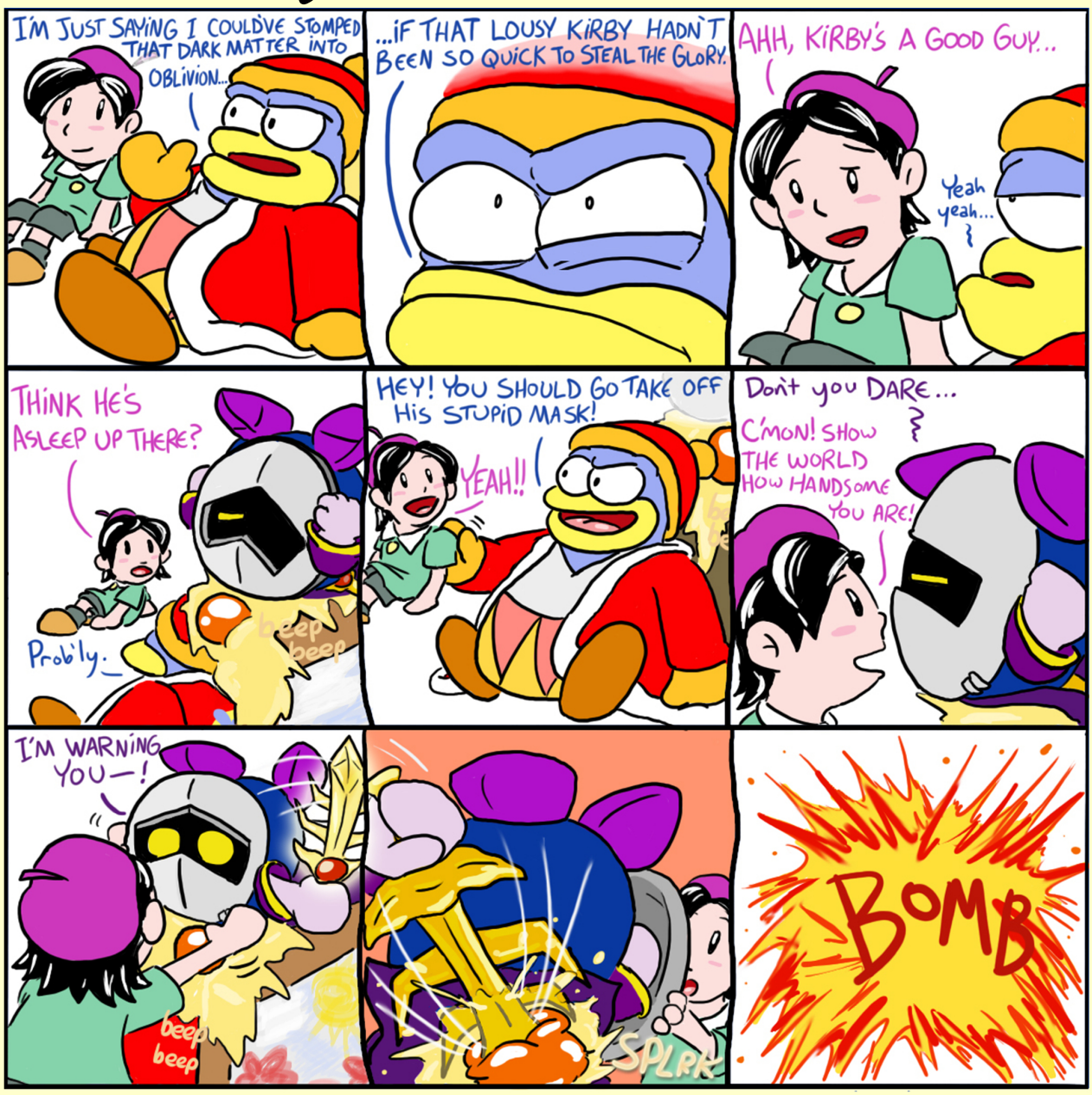
133 - Gooey Bomb (Part 4)

134 - Gooey Bomb (Part 5)



The Gooey Bomb storyline all kind of came to me at once. Stylistically, this is the first of several BitF story arcs that starts with a series of gags and takes a turn into something else. I think the friendship between Adeleine and Dedede is a cute one, and Dedede and Meta Knight getting into a scrape together was fun to explore as well. There are some alternate endings for this story arc in the Gallery section of this book.

135 - Gooey Bomb (Part 6)

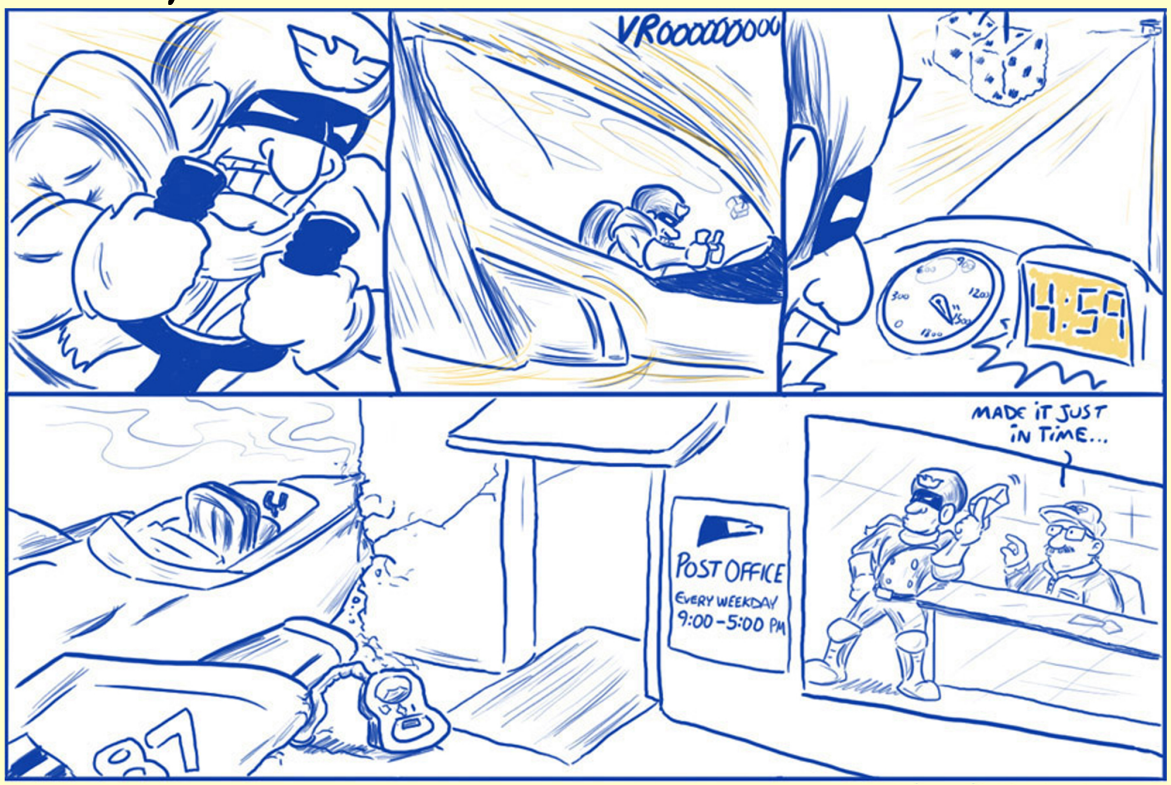


136 - Gooey Bomb (Part 7)

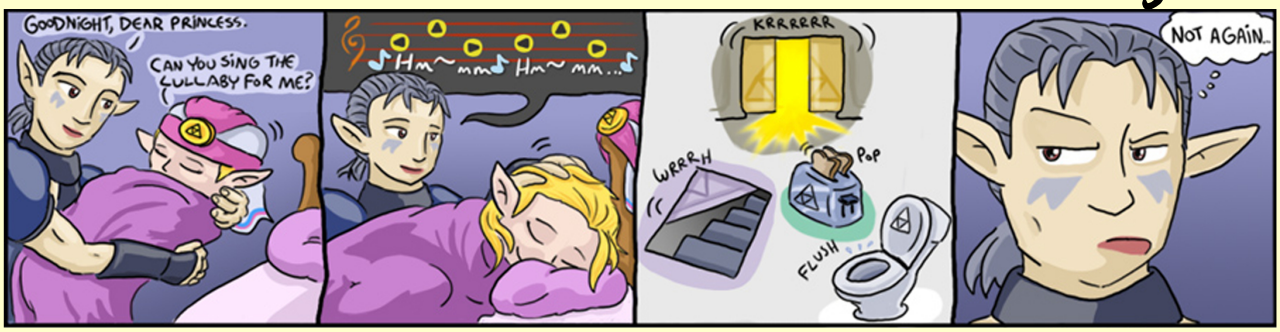
137 - Rodent

138 - Hot Dog

139 - Captain Falcon Drives Real Fast



140 - Lullaby

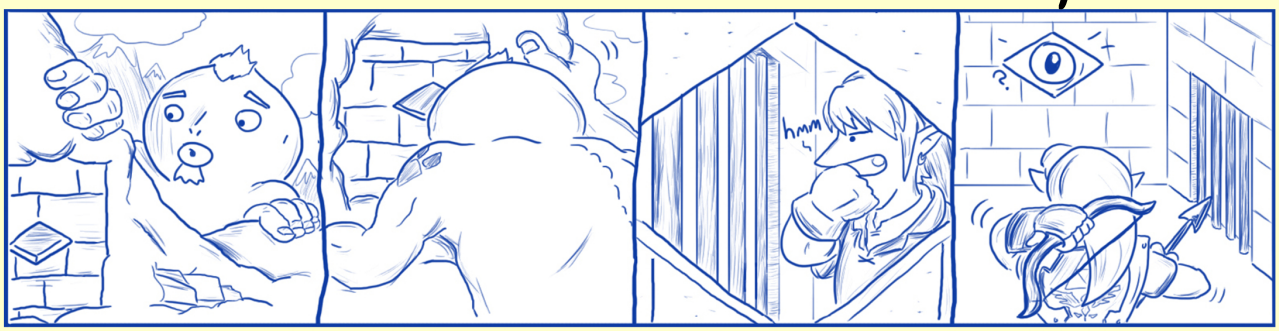


141 - Blue Bomber vs. Blue Blur

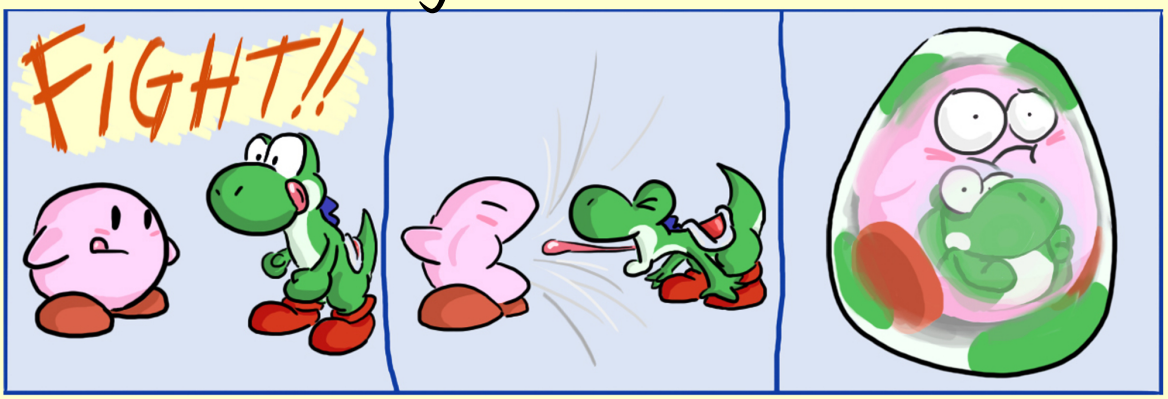
142 - Stumble

143 - Crocomire

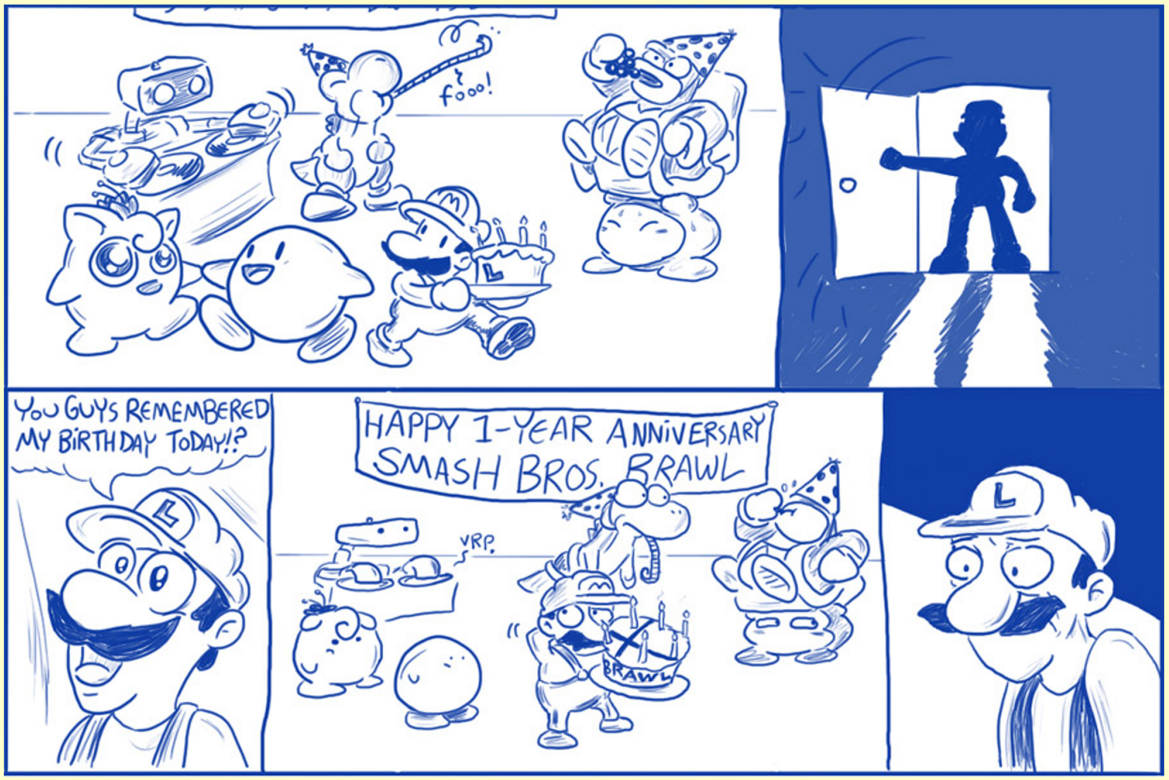
144 - Mountain Peephole

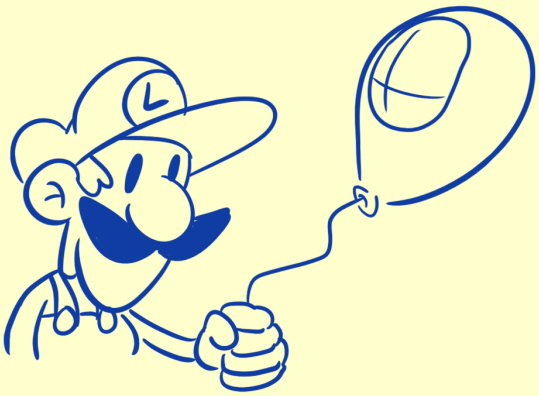


145 - Food Fight

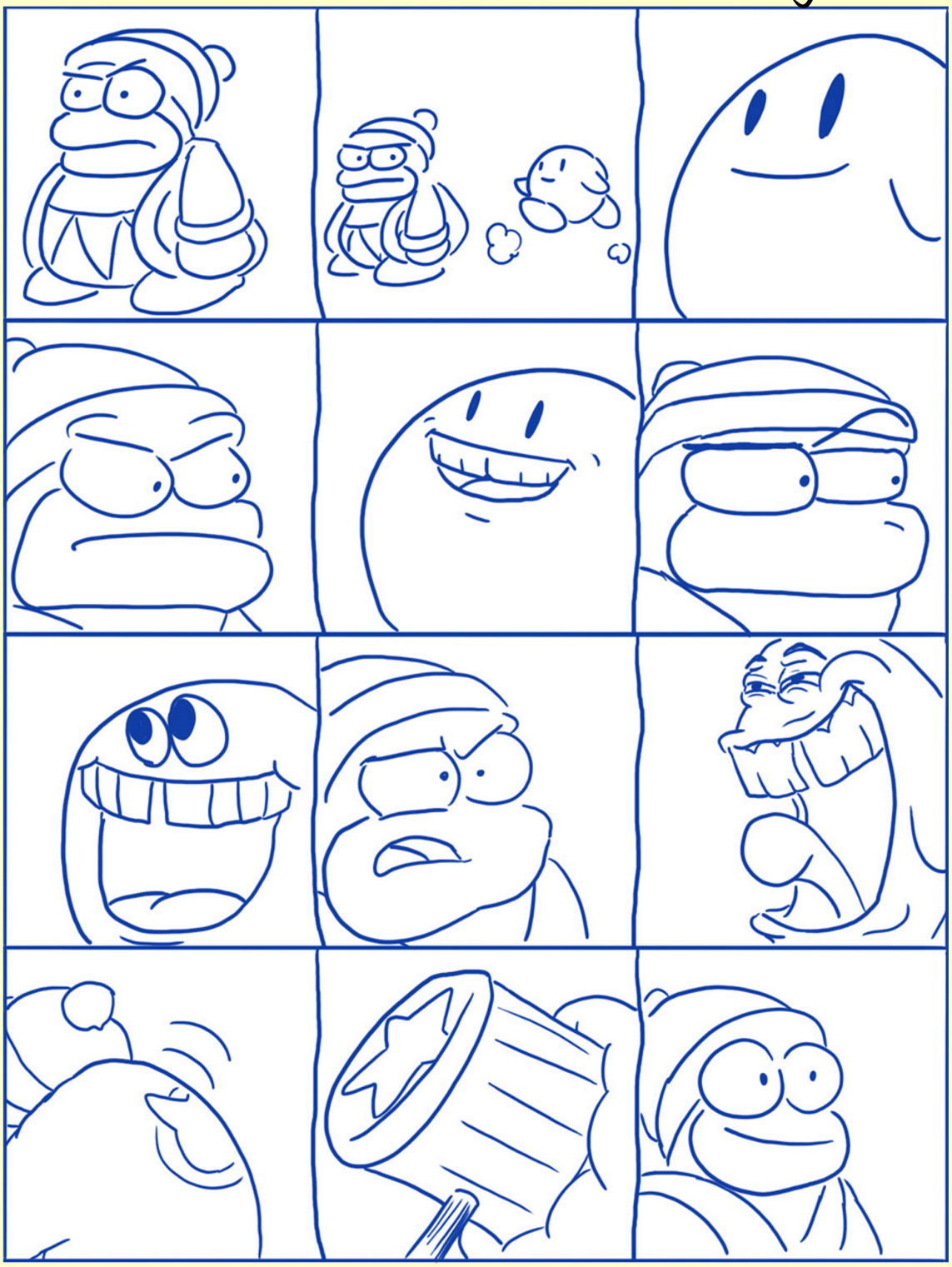


146 - Celebration

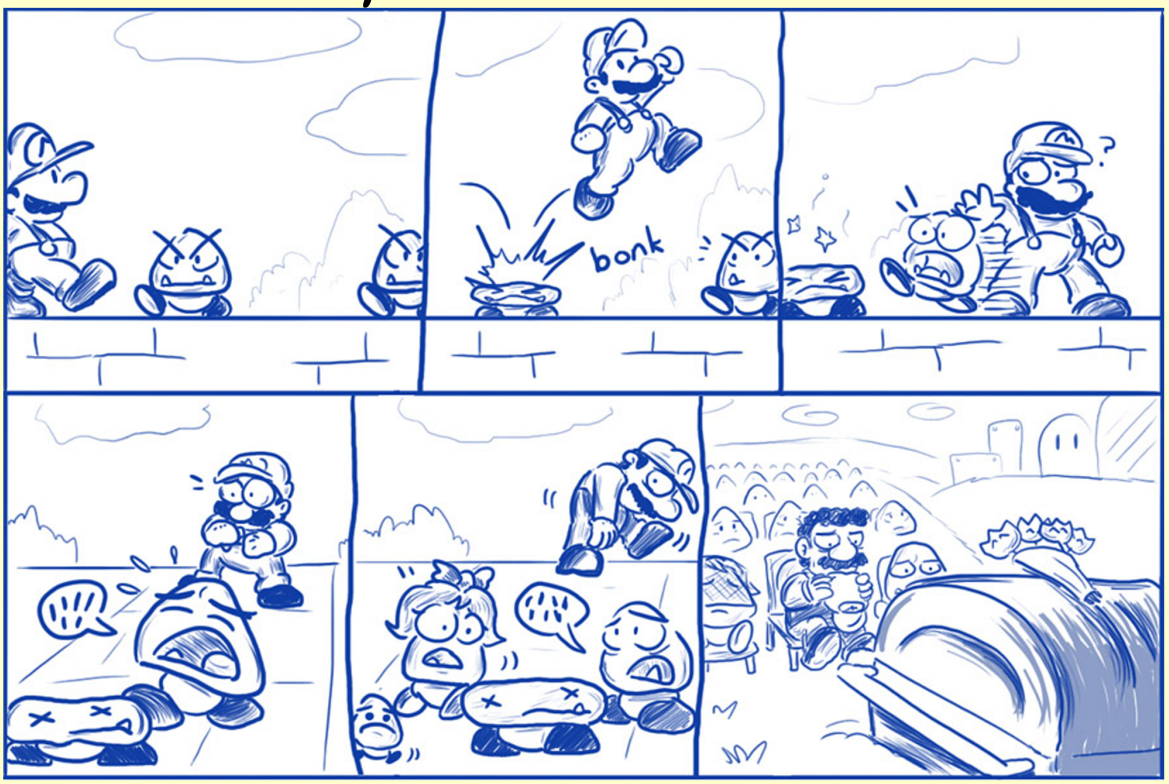




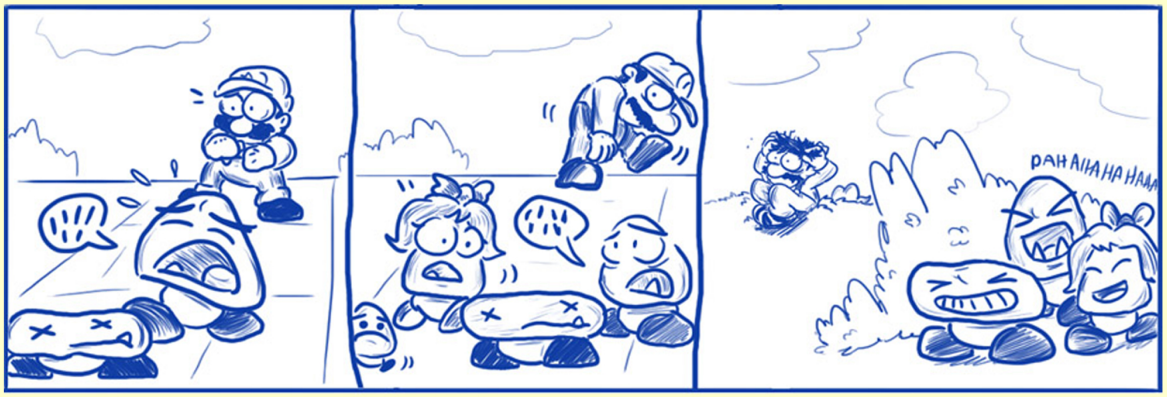
147 - Saving Face



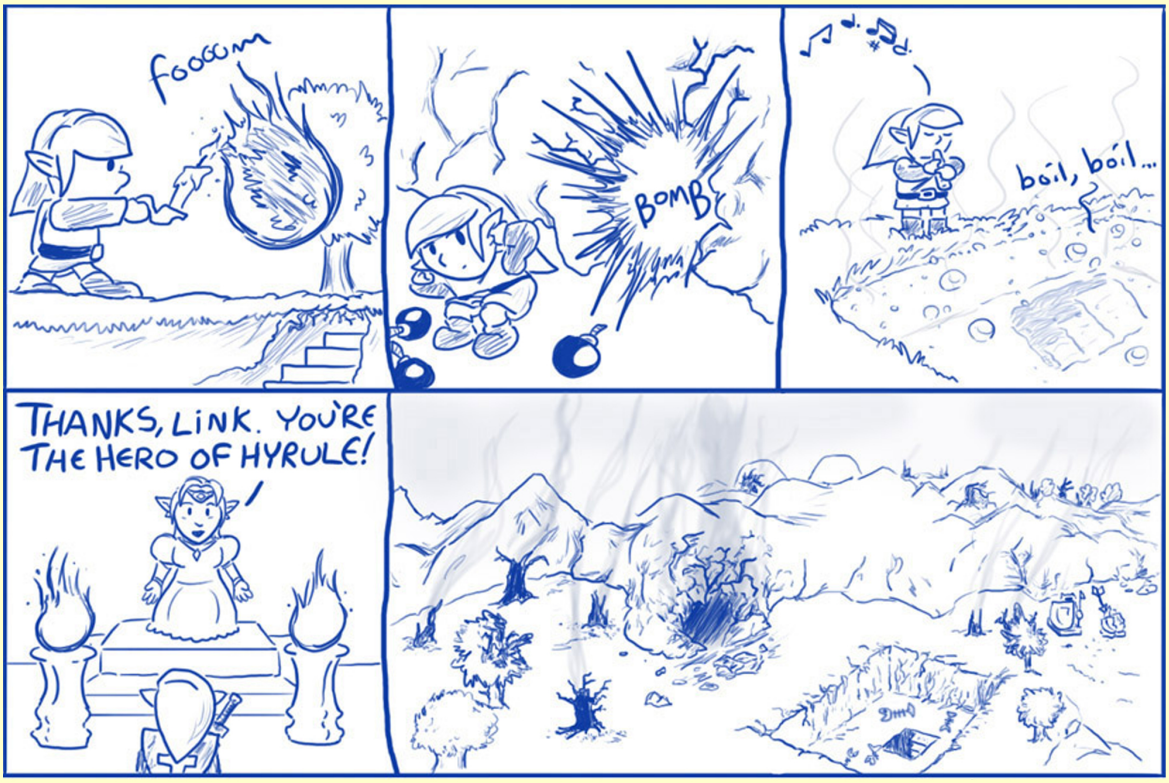
148 - Stomp



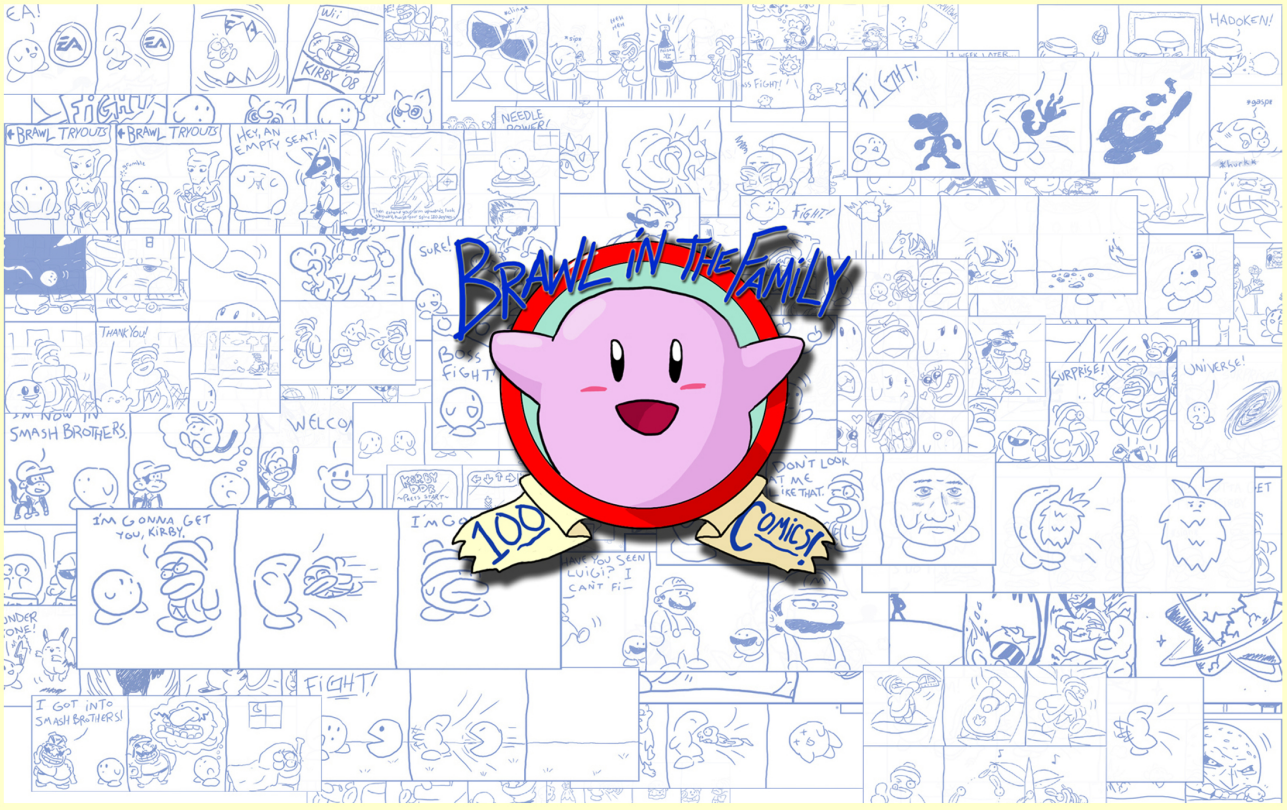
This strip contained two alternate endings, which can be seen below.



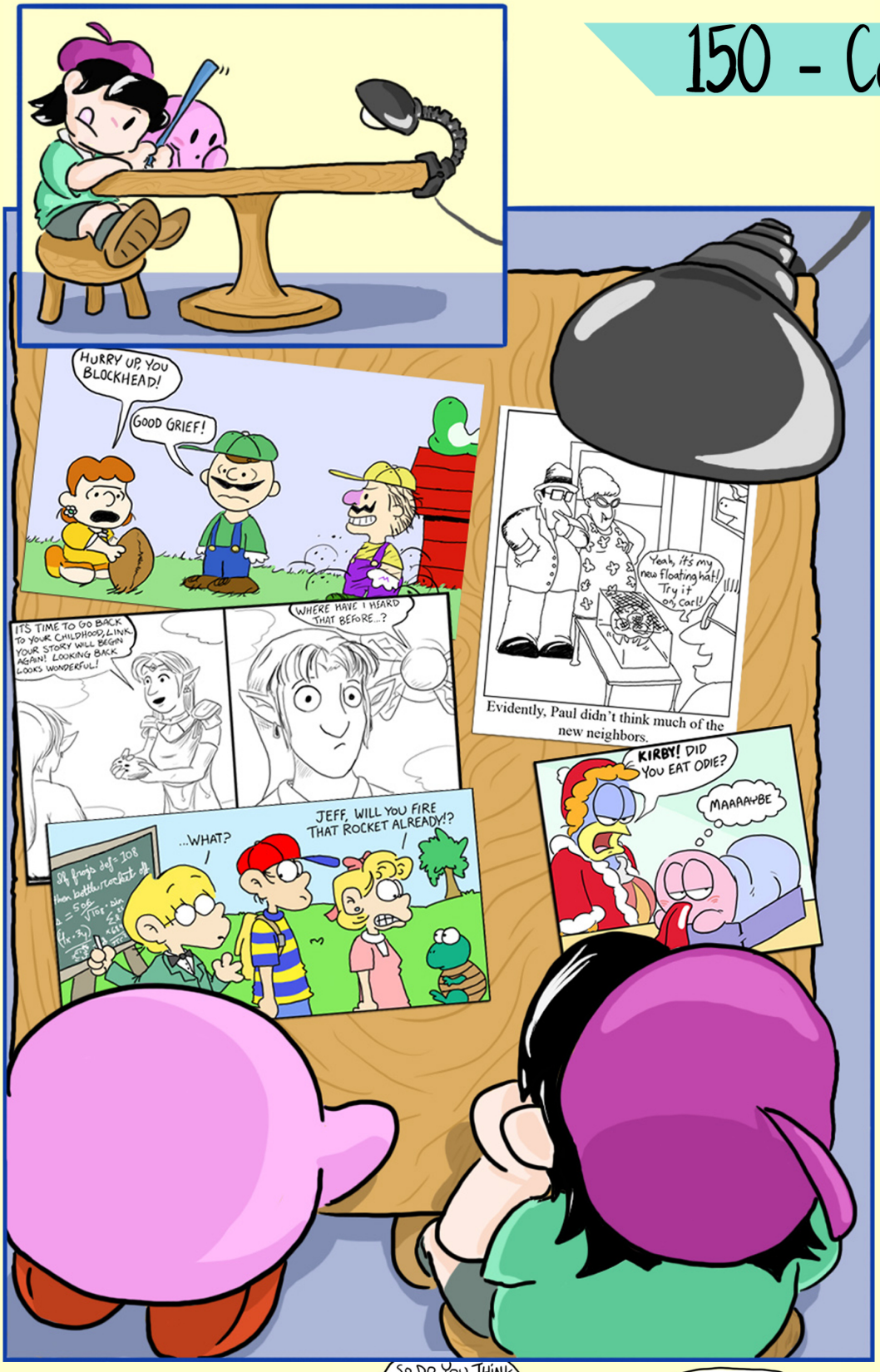
149 - Hero



I really like the way this one came out, with the various comic references. Alas, this was the last "Hits" image I made--the site hits had gotten difficult to keep track of. Nowadays, BitF averages around 2 or 3 million hits a month.



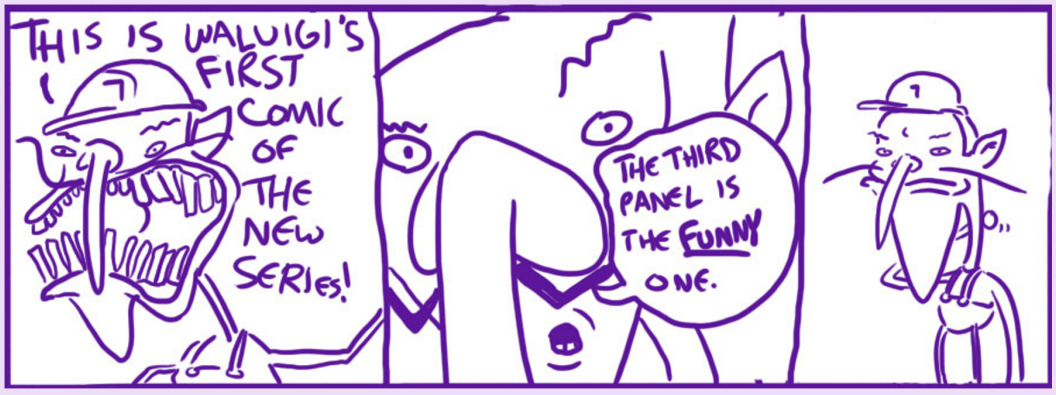
150 - Comic Strip



As a longtime fan of the Sunday funnies, I greatly enjoyed doing this little homage, and it's always fun to work in different visual styles.

151 - WitF

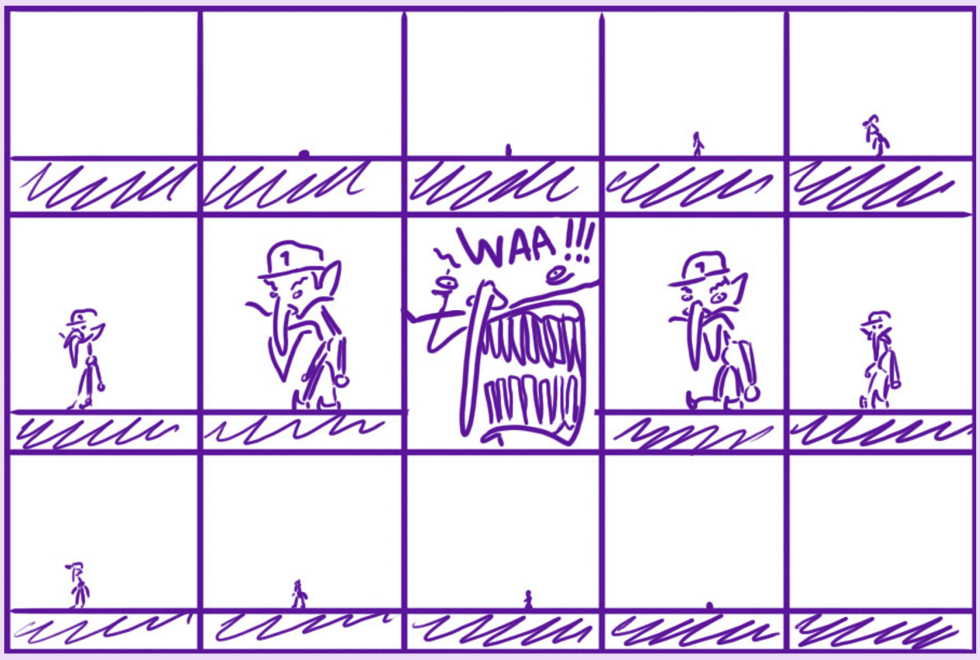
00000001 - Waluigi's New Comic



00000002 - Waluigi's Nemesis

00000003 - Waluigi Looks at Dedede Like That

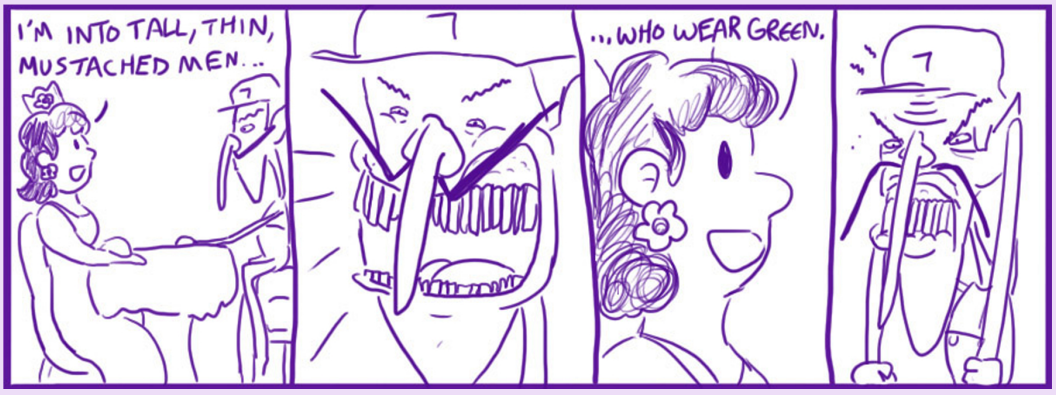
00000004 - Waluigi Comes to Greet His Many Fans



00000005 - Waluigi Presents a Color Comic

00000006 - Waluigi Goes to a Musical

00000007 - Waluigi On a Date



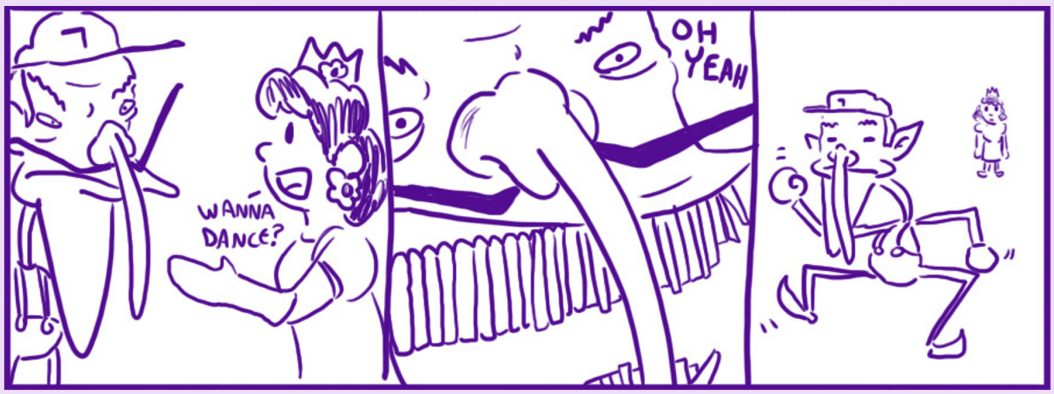
00000008 - Waluigi Has Gone Away?

00000009 - Waluigi the Philosopher

00000010 - Waluigi Has Bad Dietary Habits

00000011 - Prehistoric Waluigisaurus

00000012 - Waluigi Goes to Prom or Some Similar Social Event

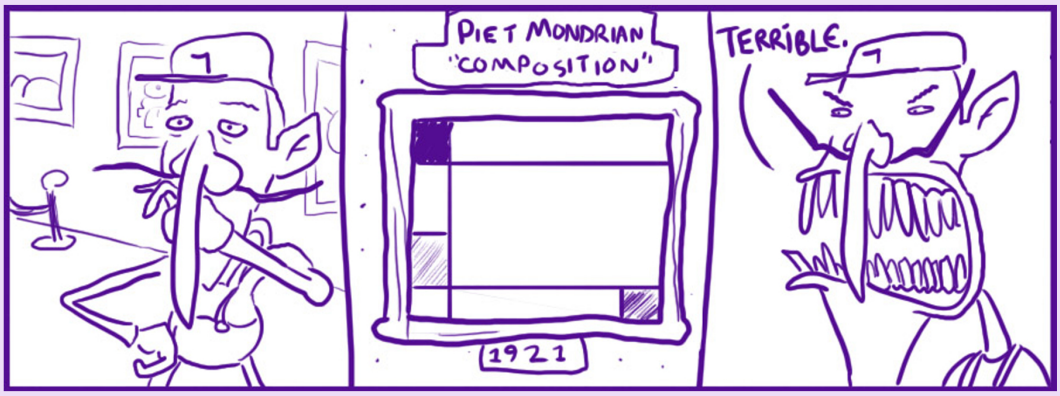


00000013 - Waluigi Proceeds to Phase Two

00000014 - Big Apple, Waluigi AM

00000015 - Waluigi Really Enjoys Making Color Comics

00000016 - Waluigi Contemplates Art At the Gallery



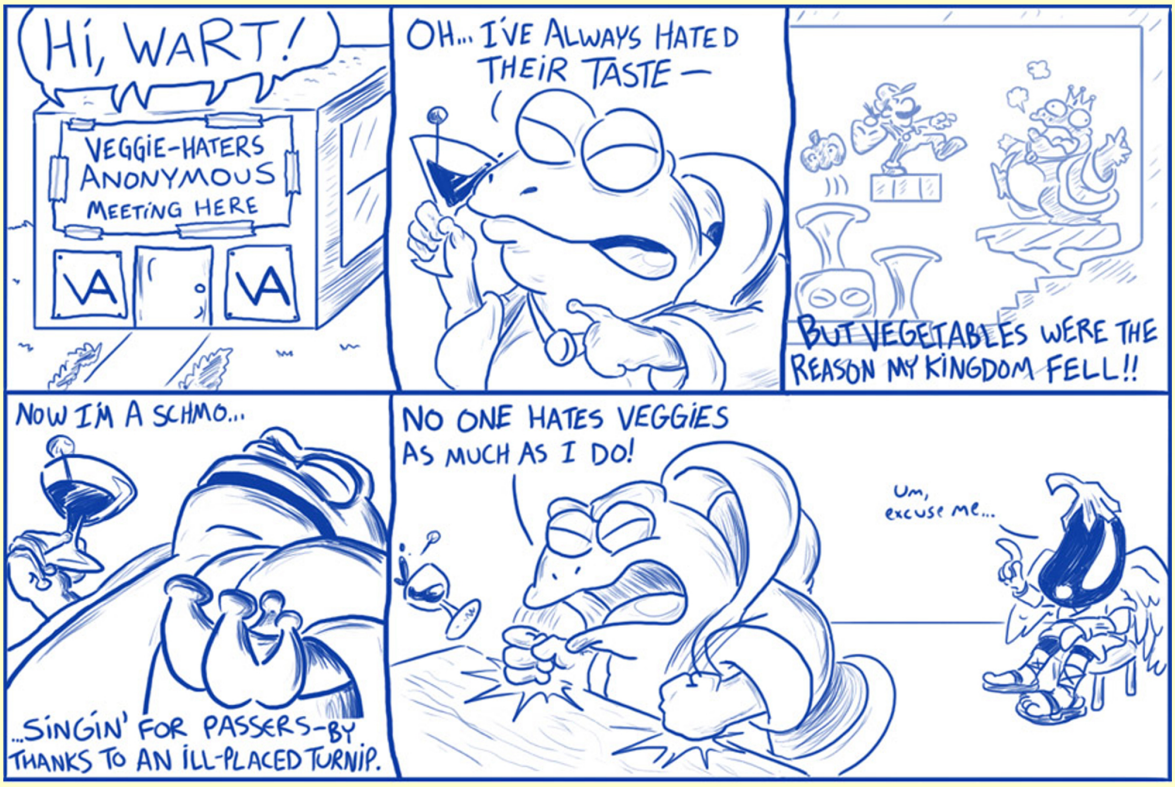
00000017 - Waluigi Gets a Brand New Look

WAAAAAA! On April 1st, 2009, I wanted to do something insane on BitF, and the results are above (and throughout the last few pages). The premise was simple: Waluigi (who hates Brawl in the Family) takes over the comic and starts making a bunch of his own strips, many of which were improvised on the spot.

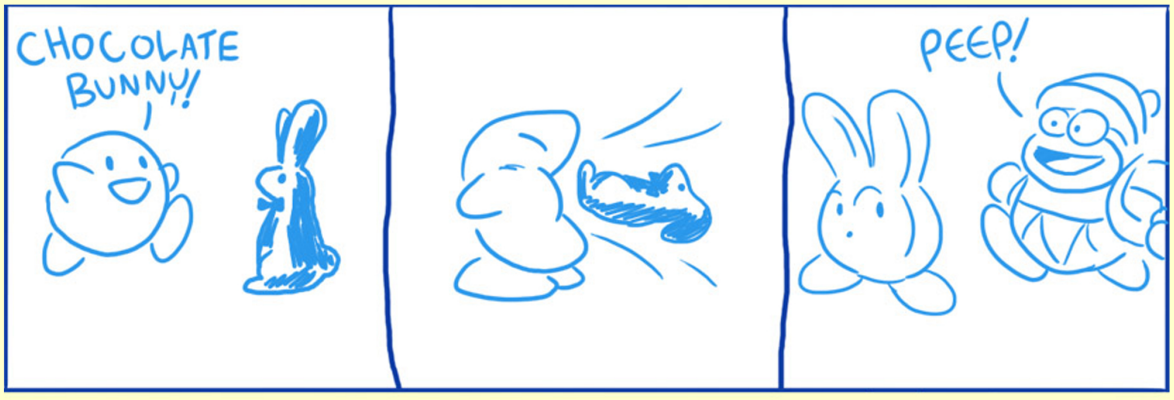
The approach with these was similar to the very first BitF strips--anything goes, don't overthink it. And like those first strips, I was surprised at the positive reaction from fans. Waluigi ended up becoming the most popular character in the strip, even to many people who normally didn't like Waluigi.

Chris Seward, who helps me run the site, drew a handful of Waluigi strips himself.

152 - VA



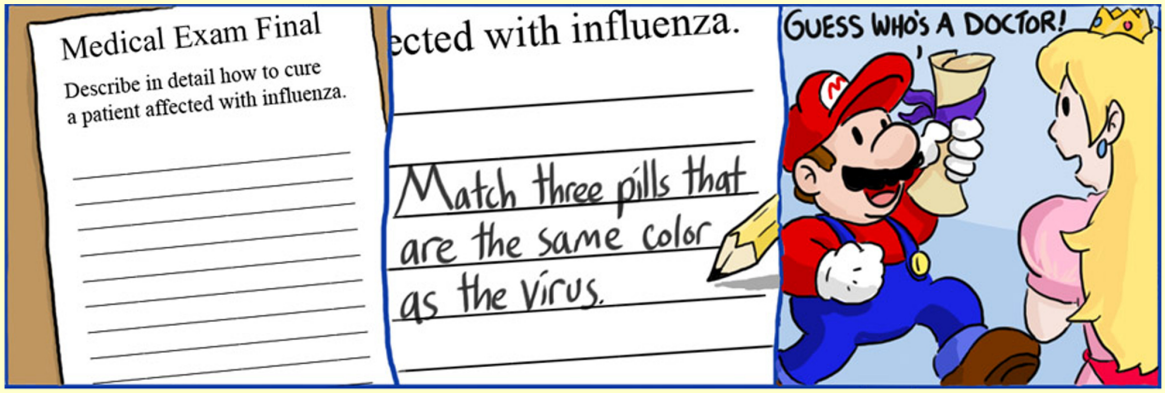
153 - Easter



154 - Hair Curl

This rather bizarre comic began life by looking at Jigglypuff's hair curl as if it was a nose. "Not Jigglypuff" is one of my favorite one-time characters--I'm a sucker for weird visual gags like this.

155 - Medical Exam



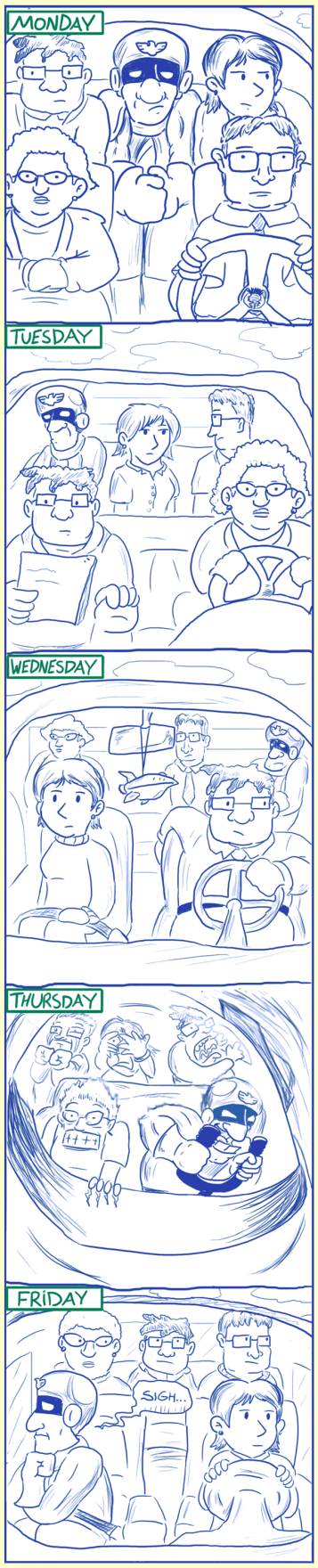
156 - Peppy is Even More Everywhere

Finding double-entendres for Peppy's one-liners was a lot of fun, but I kind of ran out of them after this strip. I love the "NUTS" jar in the last panel.

157 - DDDDDS

My goal with this one was to fool readers again into thinking Dedede was in disguise, with the reveal of Dededoo. It's not easy after the reader had already been introduced to Dededoo, but I thought covering his mouth like this would work. A number of readers didn't like it as much as comic 103, though, partly because "I'm here to clean your teeth" doesn't have a double meaning like the clock line.

158 - Captain Falcon Carpools to Work



This is a very tall strip!

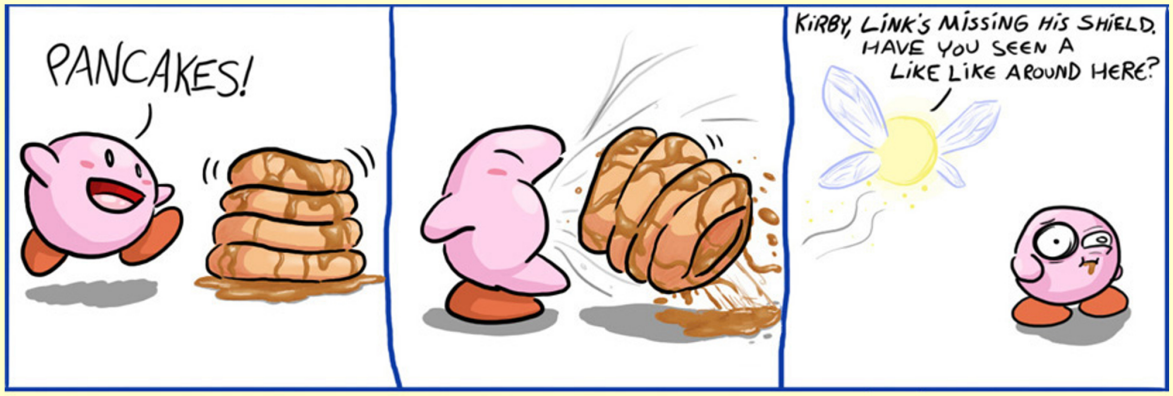
I threw in a couple of TV references in this one--see if you can spot them.

The Captain Falcon strips all use his name; it's inspired by the *Ernest* movies.

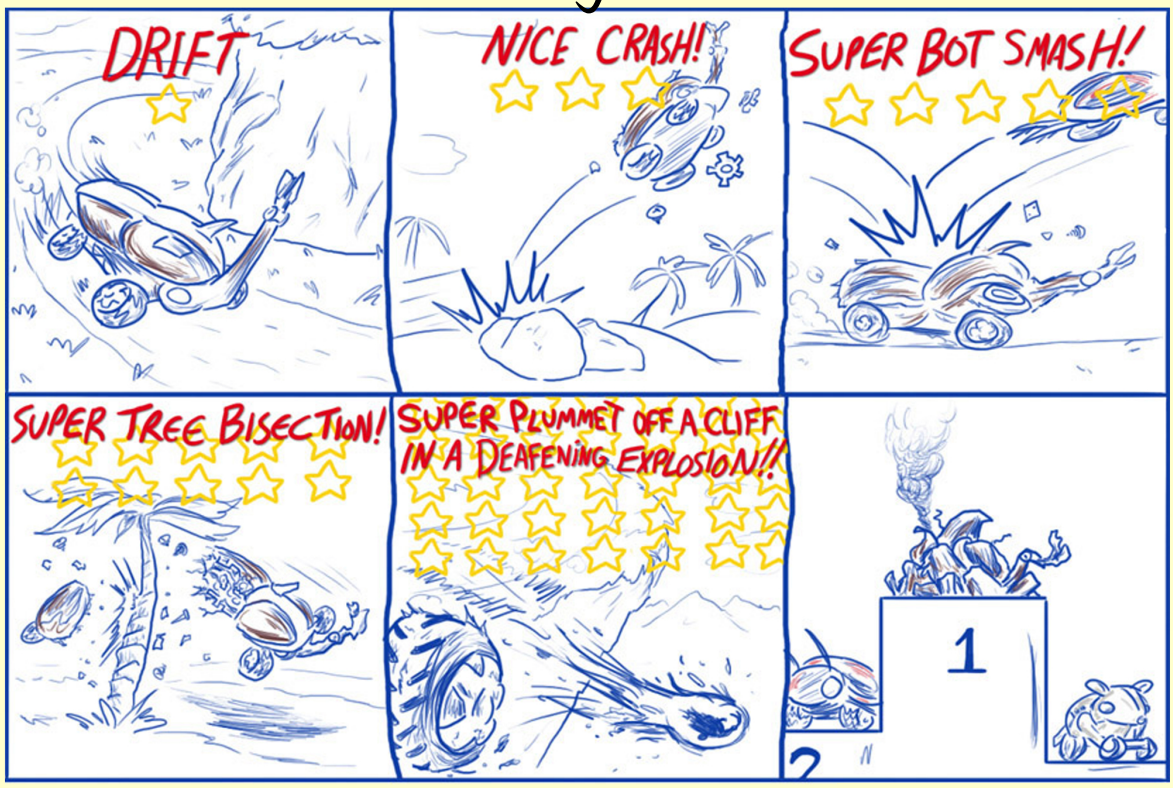
159 - Security

This always bugged me in the games. The Pokémon strips are among the most popular with fans, although since I haven't played the series since Gold/Silver, they're generally based around the 90's Pokémon games.

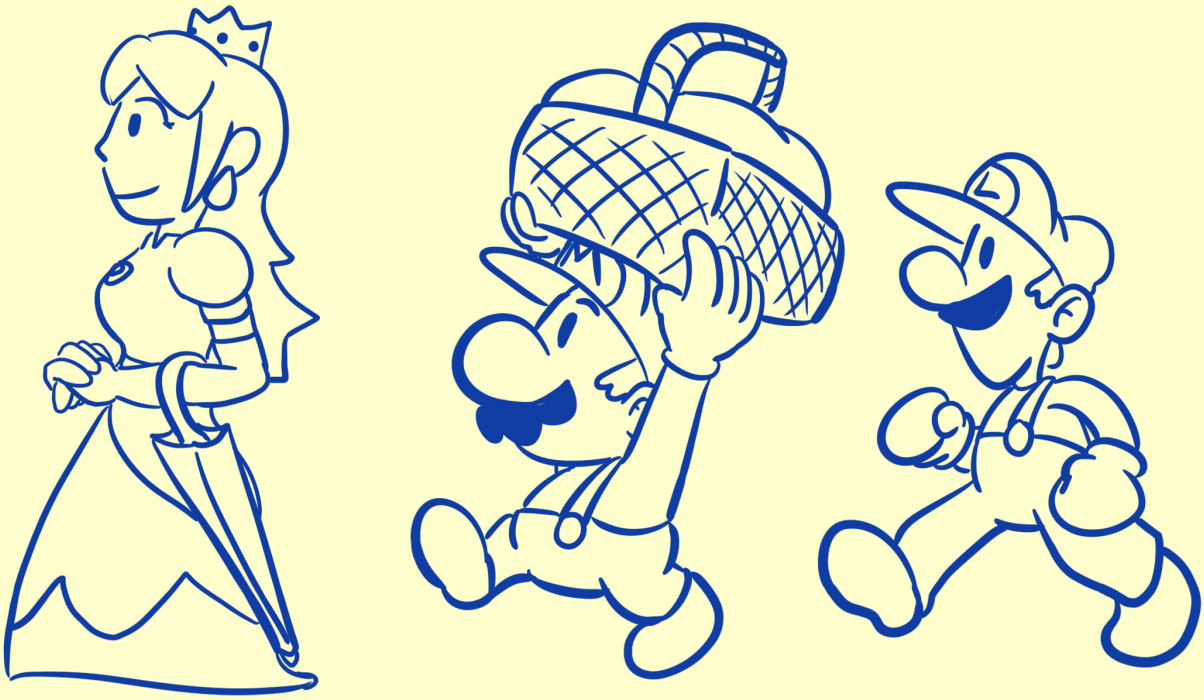
160 - Pancakes



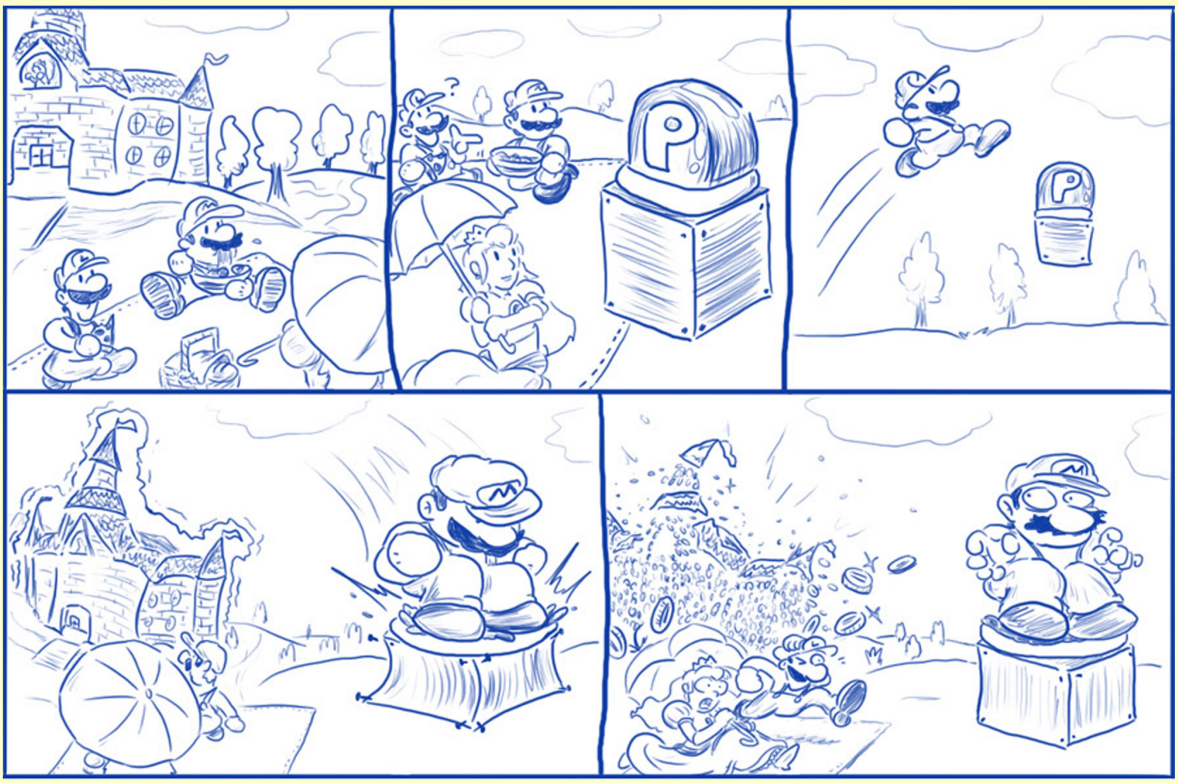
161 - Trick Racing



162 - Defending the Belt



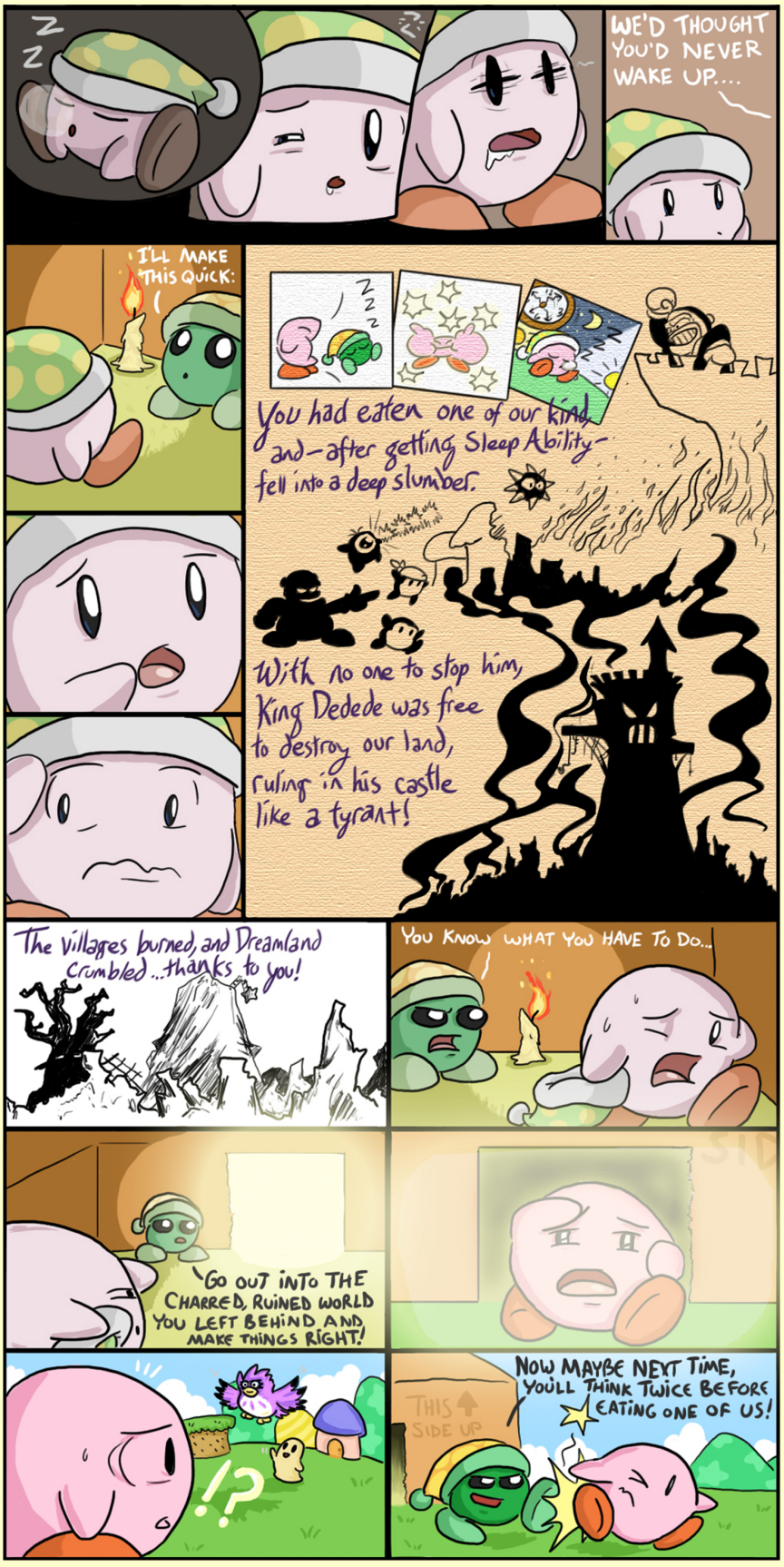
163 - P-Block



164 - Under New Management

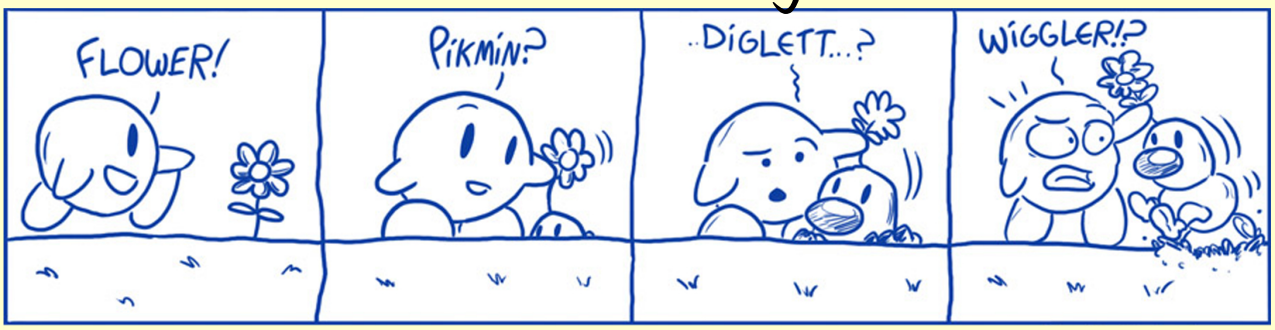
This was fun. One of my absolute favorite things to do in BitF is self-depreciating humor, so Dedede drawing a comic about Kirby practically writes itself. My brother Michael actually drew the Dedede panels on this one after I gave him the initial sketch.

165 - The Lesson

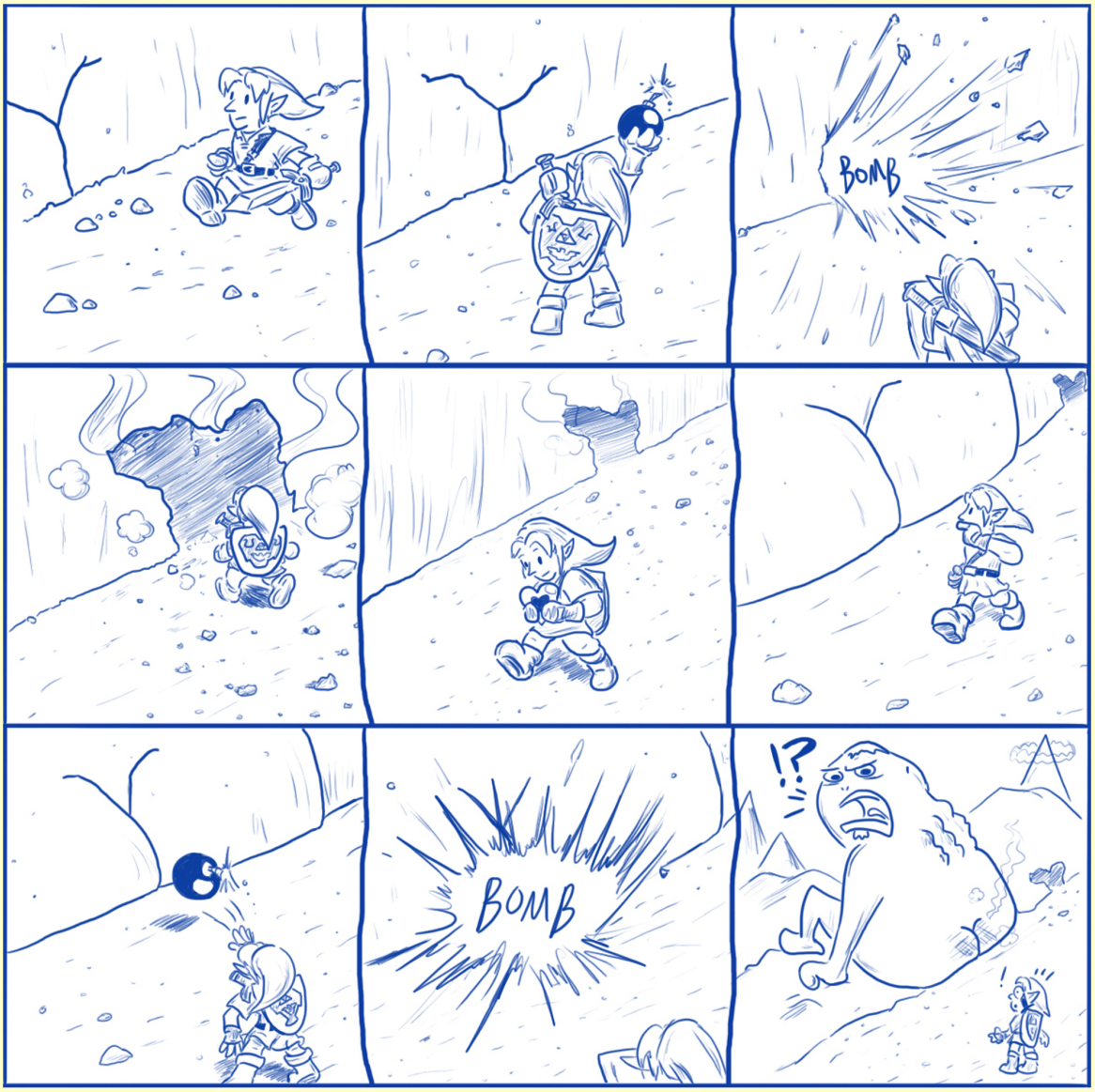


This tall comic showed up after a long hiatus. Elaborate pranks are a common sight in BitF, so this is a take on that with extra hypothetical drama. I like actually using the Kirby universe (Popstar, etc.) since most comics involving Kirby aren't directly related to the games

166 - Flower Picking



167 - Mountain Cracks



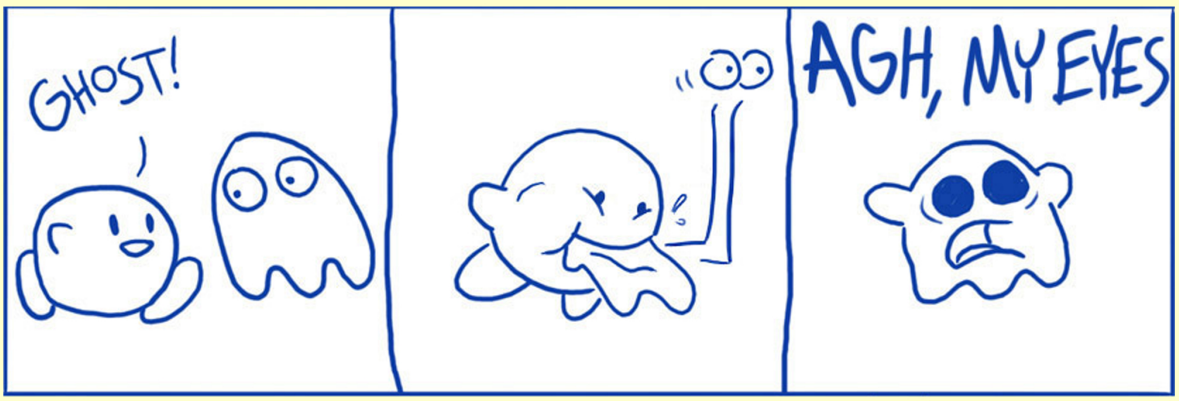
No treasure in there, I'm afraid.

With this tasteful comic, the site got a redesign and included "mouseover text" for nearly all the strips from that point. The text for each strip will be included below it (in italics) from here on out!

168 - Kart Repair

Stick to the airships, buddy.

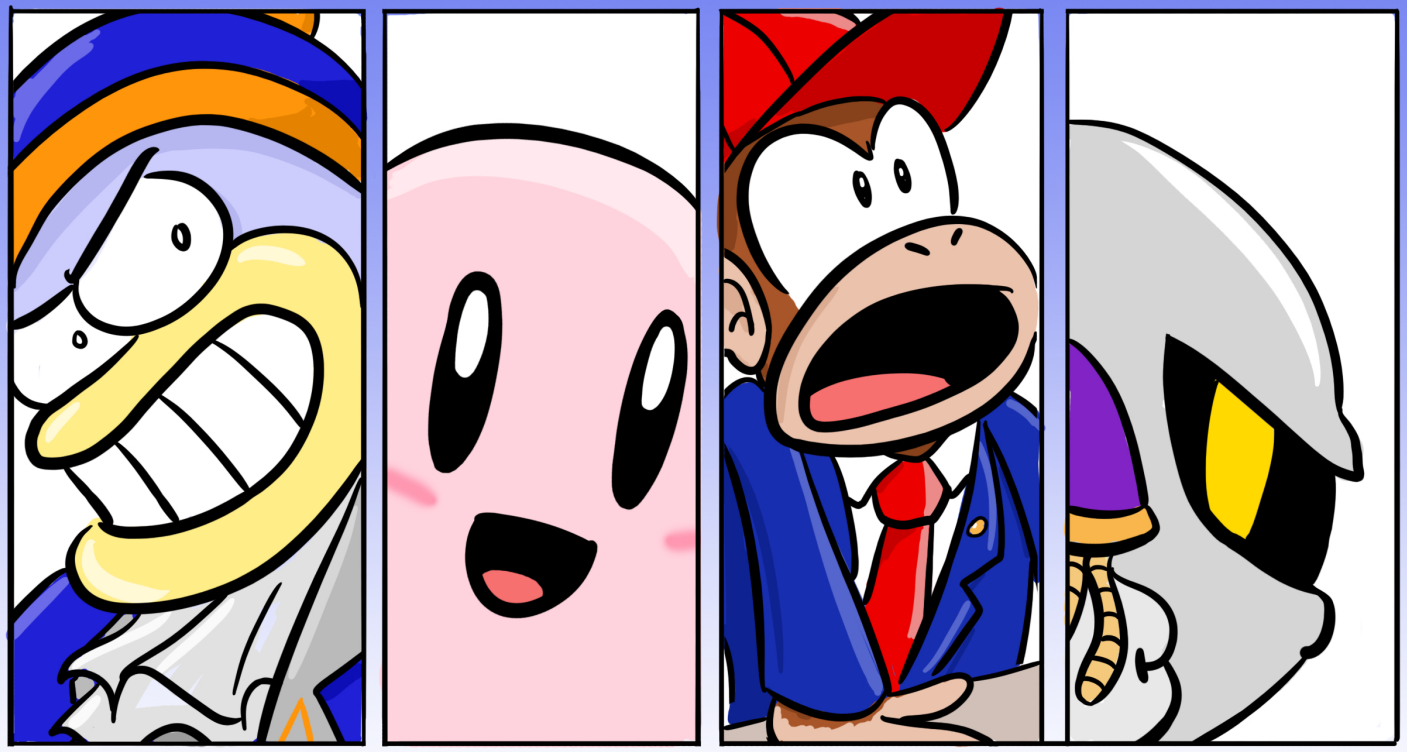
169 - Ghost



Are 200 points worth blindness?

170 - Kraken

"It will always bring back the fondest of memories!"

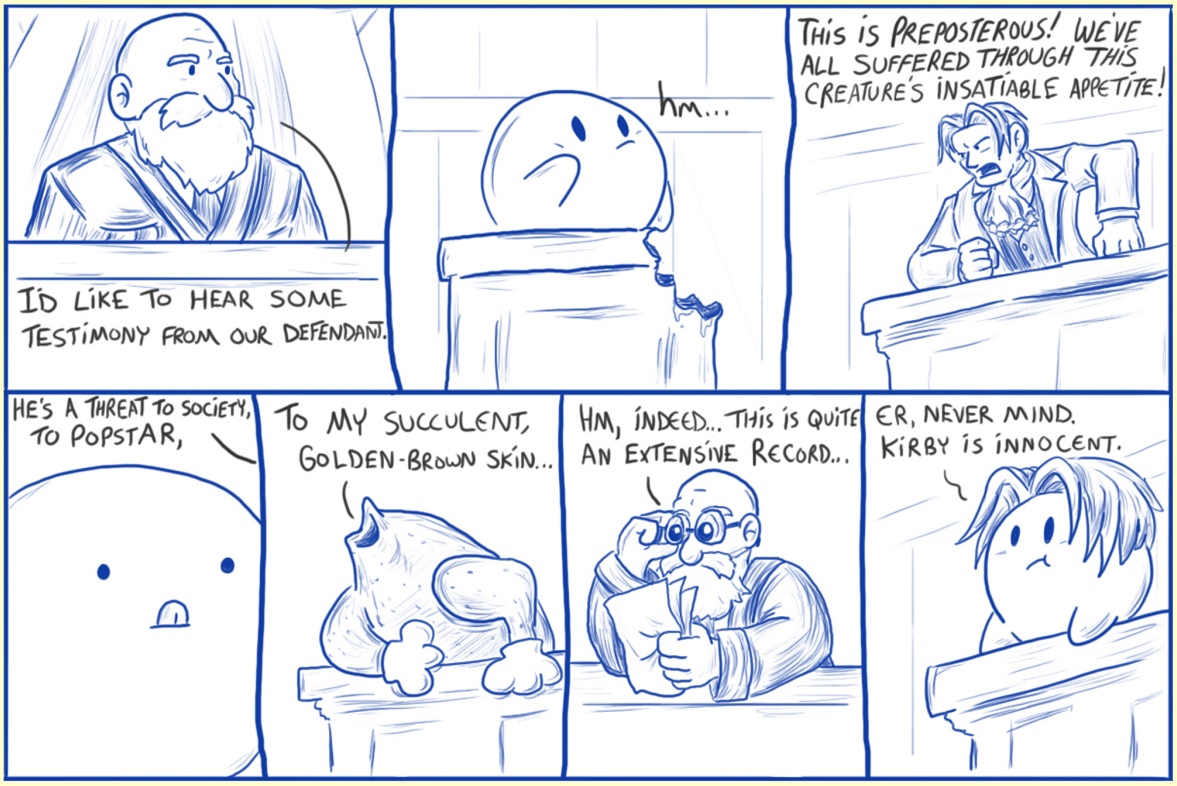


Turnabout Kirby

171 - Turnabout Kirby (Part 1)

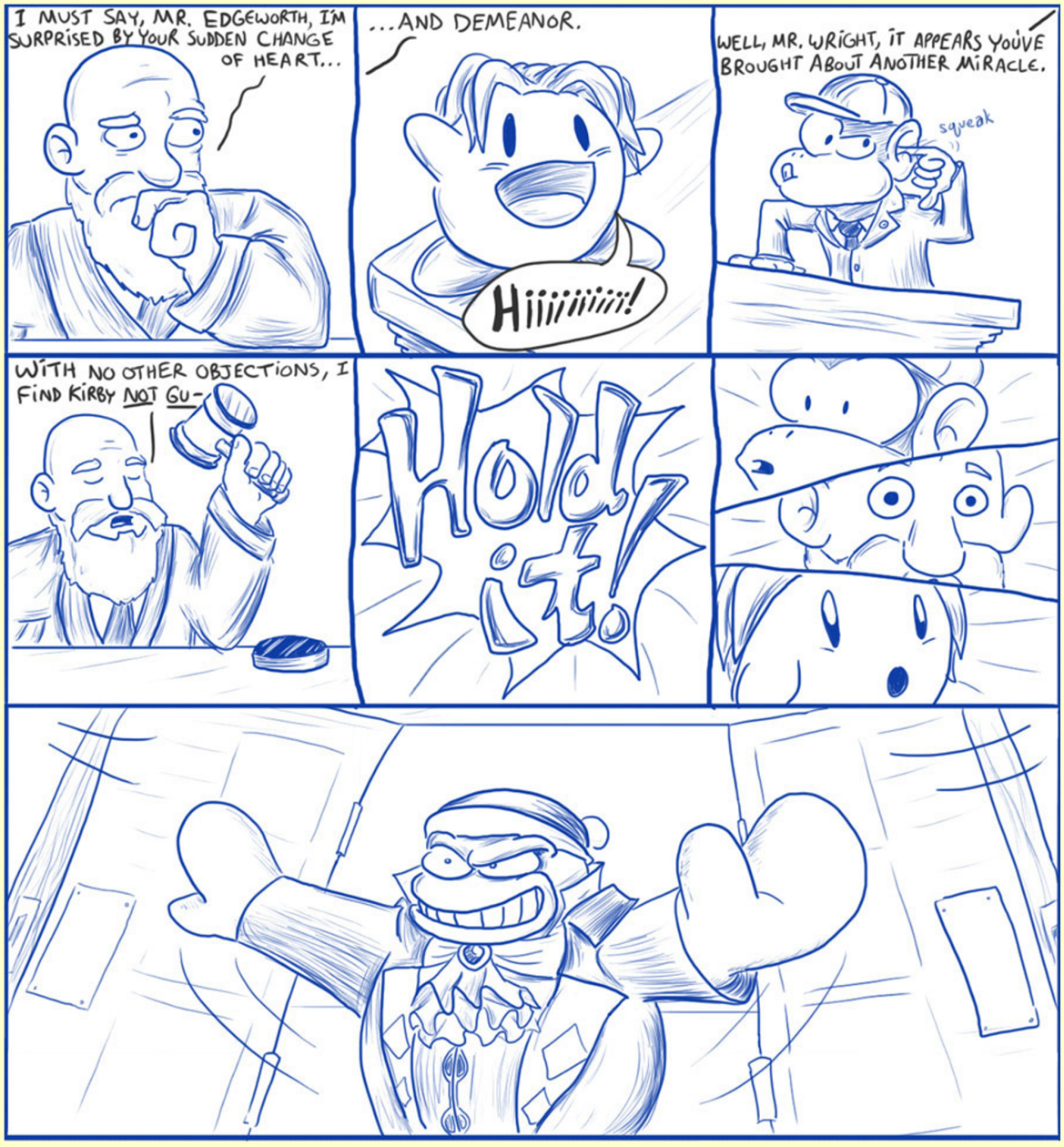
"Bailiff, bring me some of those bananas."

172 - Turnabout Kirby (Part 2)



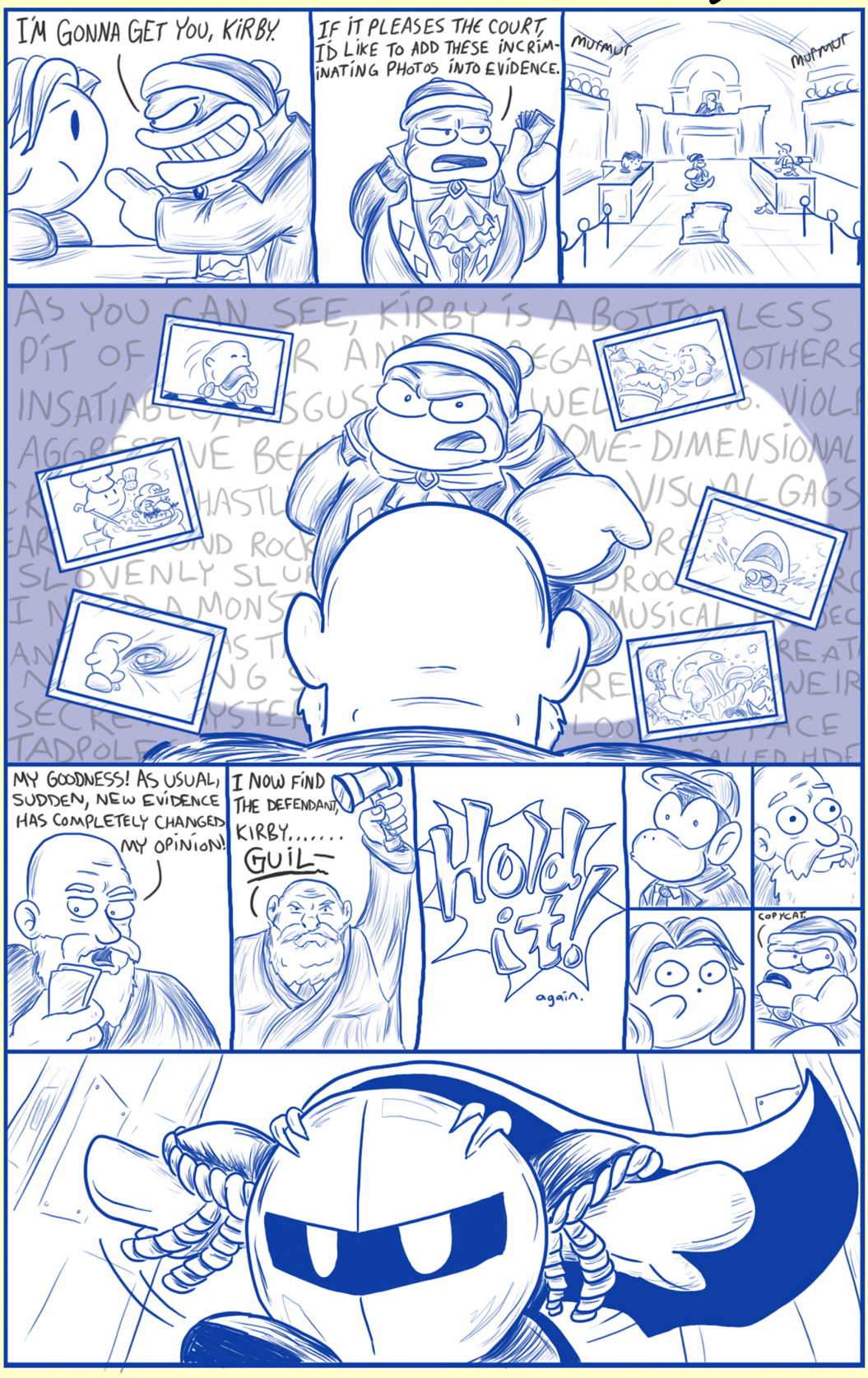
"I find Kirby guilty of looking fabulous."

173 - Turnabout Kirby (Part 3)



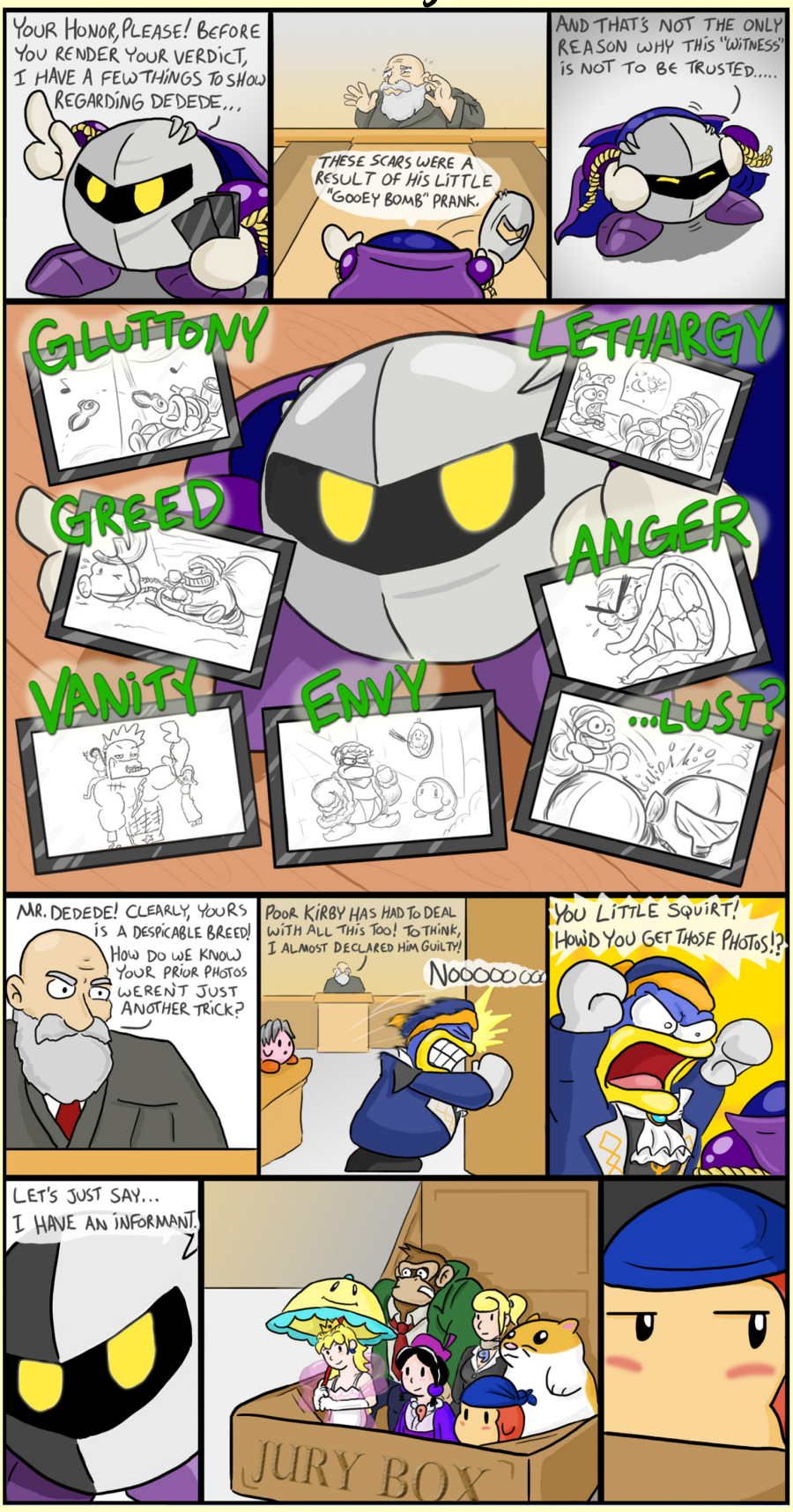
Well, as long as he doesn't have a taser...

174 - Turnabout Kirby (Part 4)



BitF isn't a comic so much as a collection of incriminating evidence against Kirby.

175 - Turnabout Kirby (Part 5)



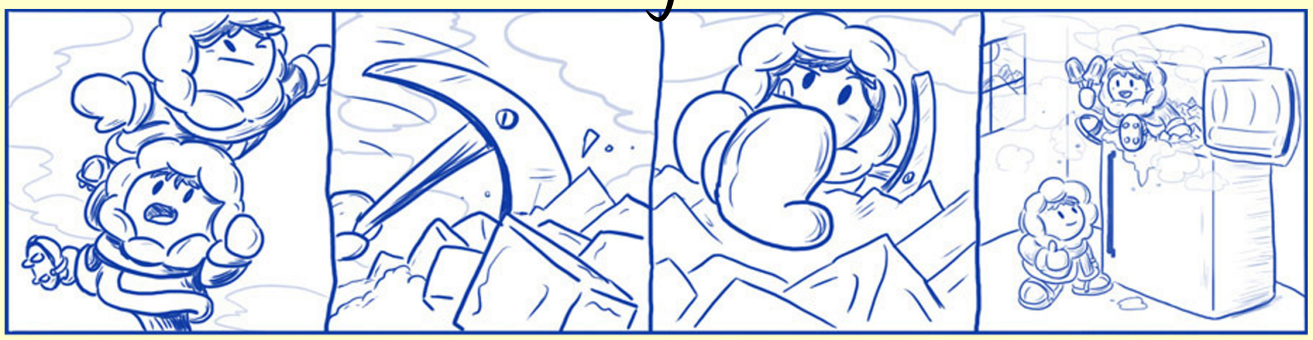
Someone's still upset over last Christmas...

174 - Turnabout Kirby (Part 6)

Alternate ending: "Kick Me" sign

The Phoenix Wright series has a special place in my heart (it's how I met my wife), and I thought the courtroom setting would mix nicely with the established cast of BitF. I think the Kirby cast is interesting in that there're shades of gray on the morality scale for many of the characters, and this final strip points that out.

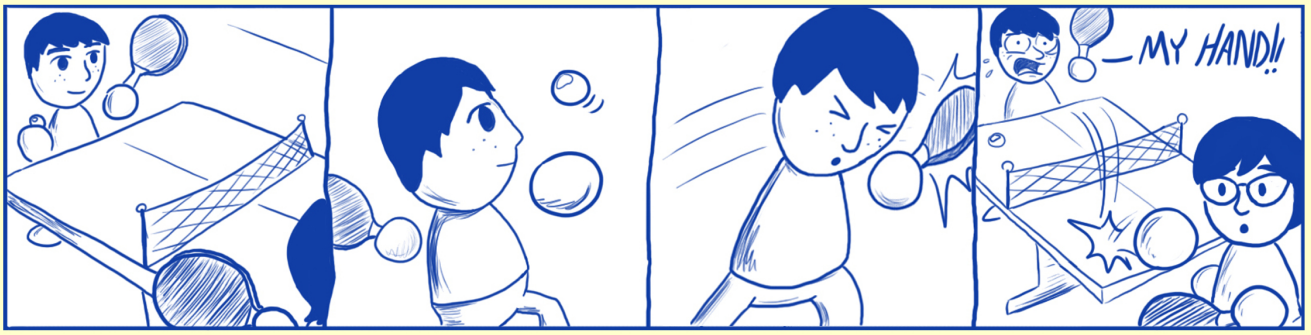
177 - Ice Climbing



Icebox Climbers

The Ice Climbers are adorable and one/two of my favorite characters in the Smash Bros. games.

178 - Table Tennis



Overhand smash

The Mii in this comic is...well, me, and the opponent is my wife Sarah!

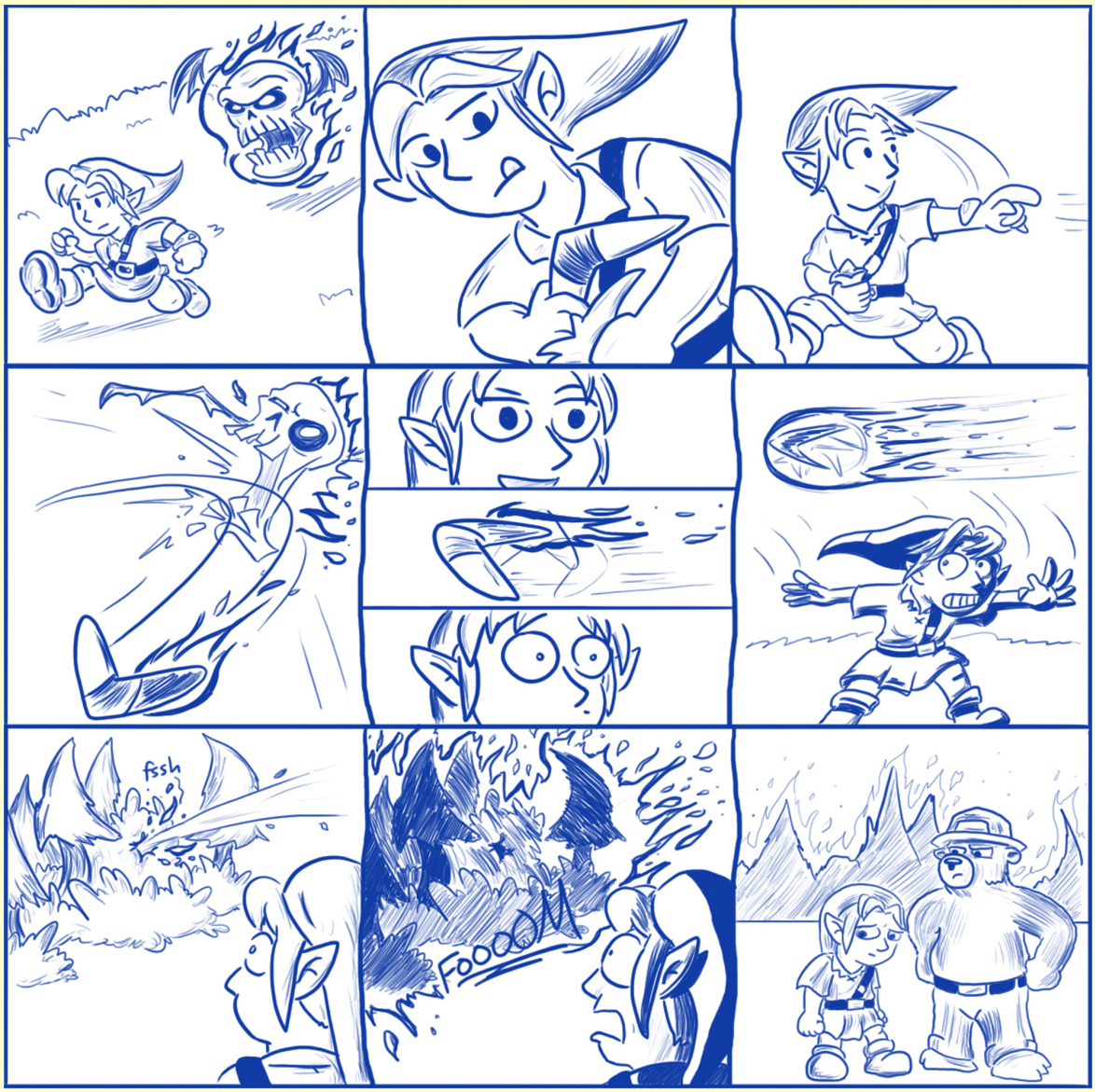
179 - Proposal

I think Jigglypuff would make a good mother.

180 - Fireballs

Only you can prevent Fire Flower forest fires.
This single-paneler had two other versions, which you can check out below.

181 - Boomerang



That forest looks quite explosive. Like it's been doused in gasoline.
Bringing back Smokey for the second comic in a row was a little risky, but I think having it called back immediately afterward made it work.

182 - Present

I'm gonna get you, Kirby...but maybe not today.
The Dededoll here became a signature item in the store and has shown up in a few strips since this one.

183 - School Roll Call

The rivalry begins...?

184 - Confrontation

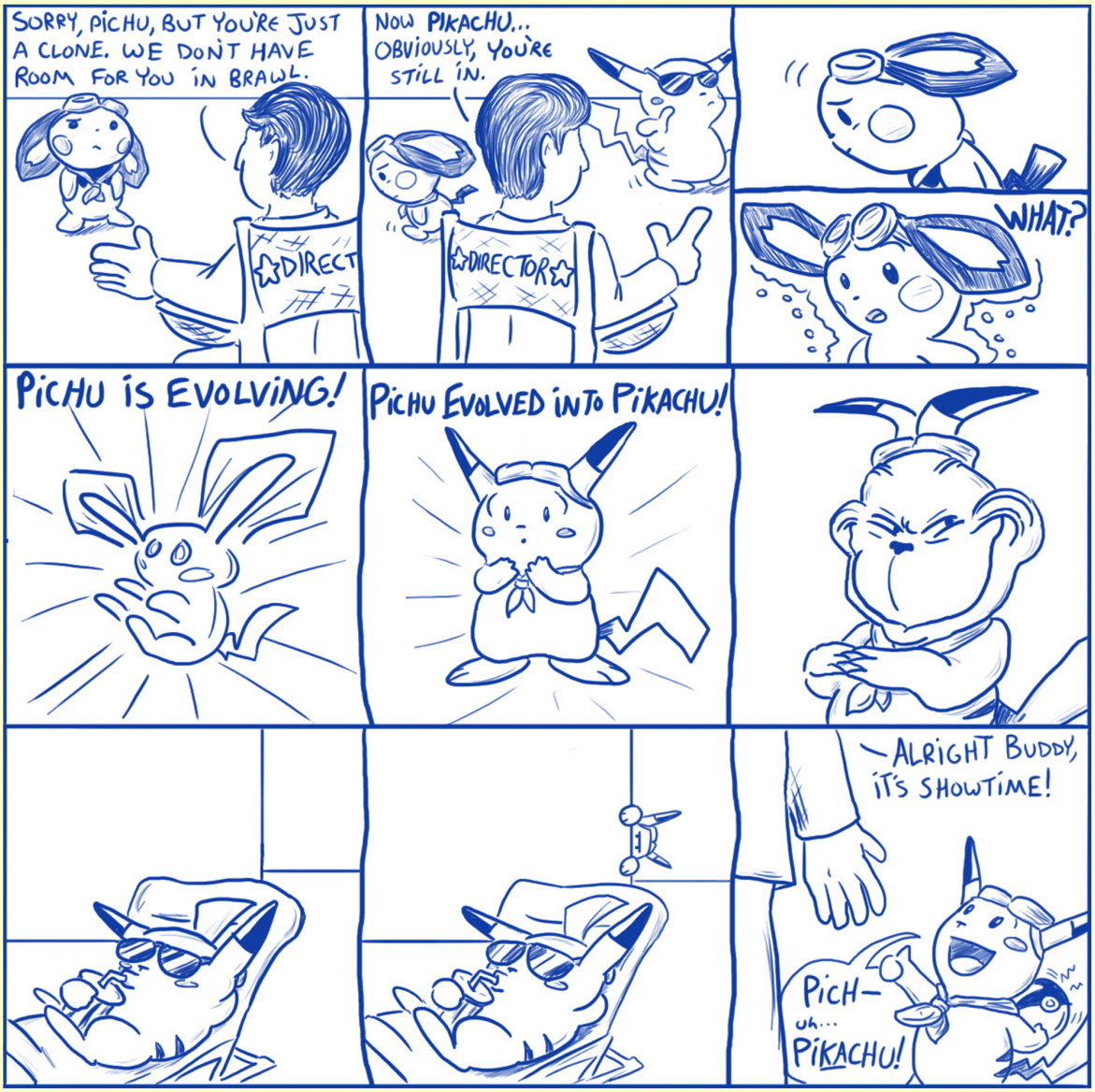
How did the ball get there in the first place...?

185 - A Metroid Adventure

Hey, no sequence breaking to the end!

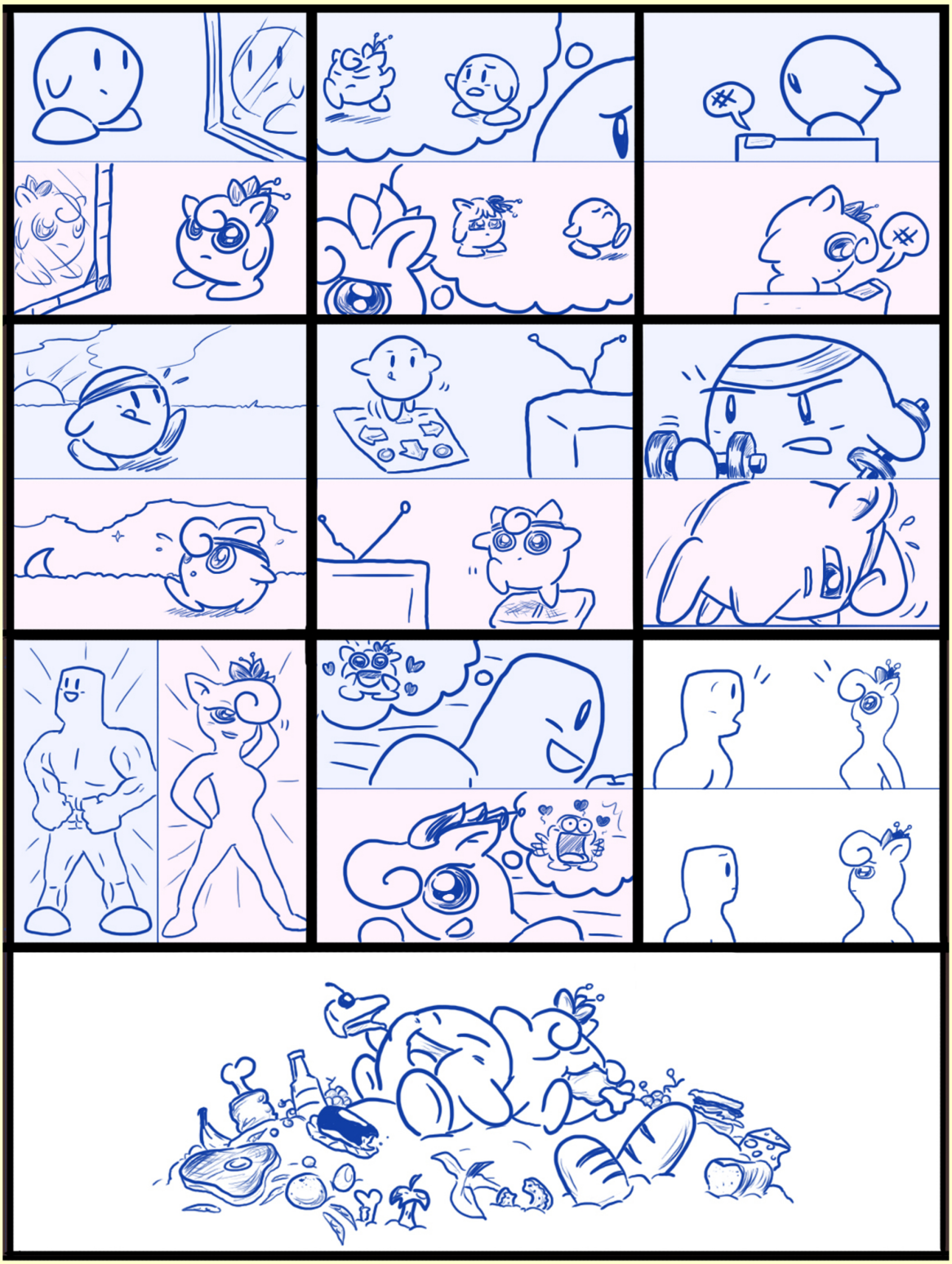
This strip was a massive homage to my all-time favorite game, Super Metroid. I think the fans enjoyed the extra bit of interactivity.

186 - Pichu



But then, he got an idea. A rotten idea...

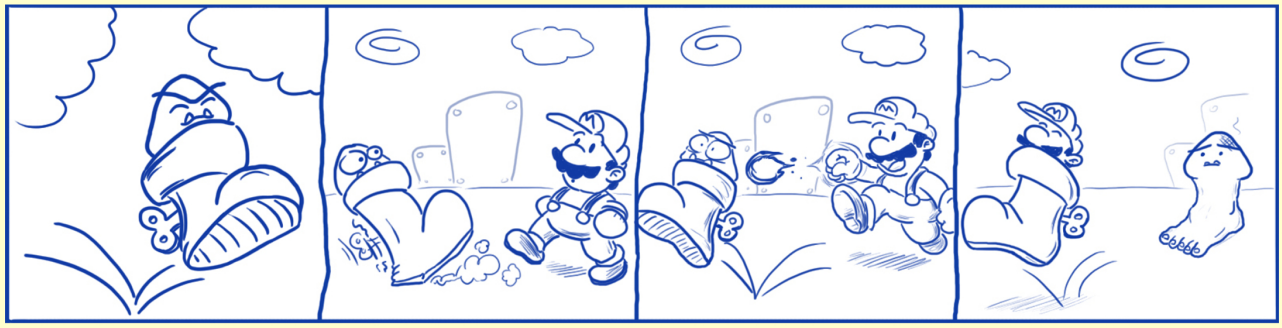
187 - Exercise



This relationship is built on the solid foundation of food.

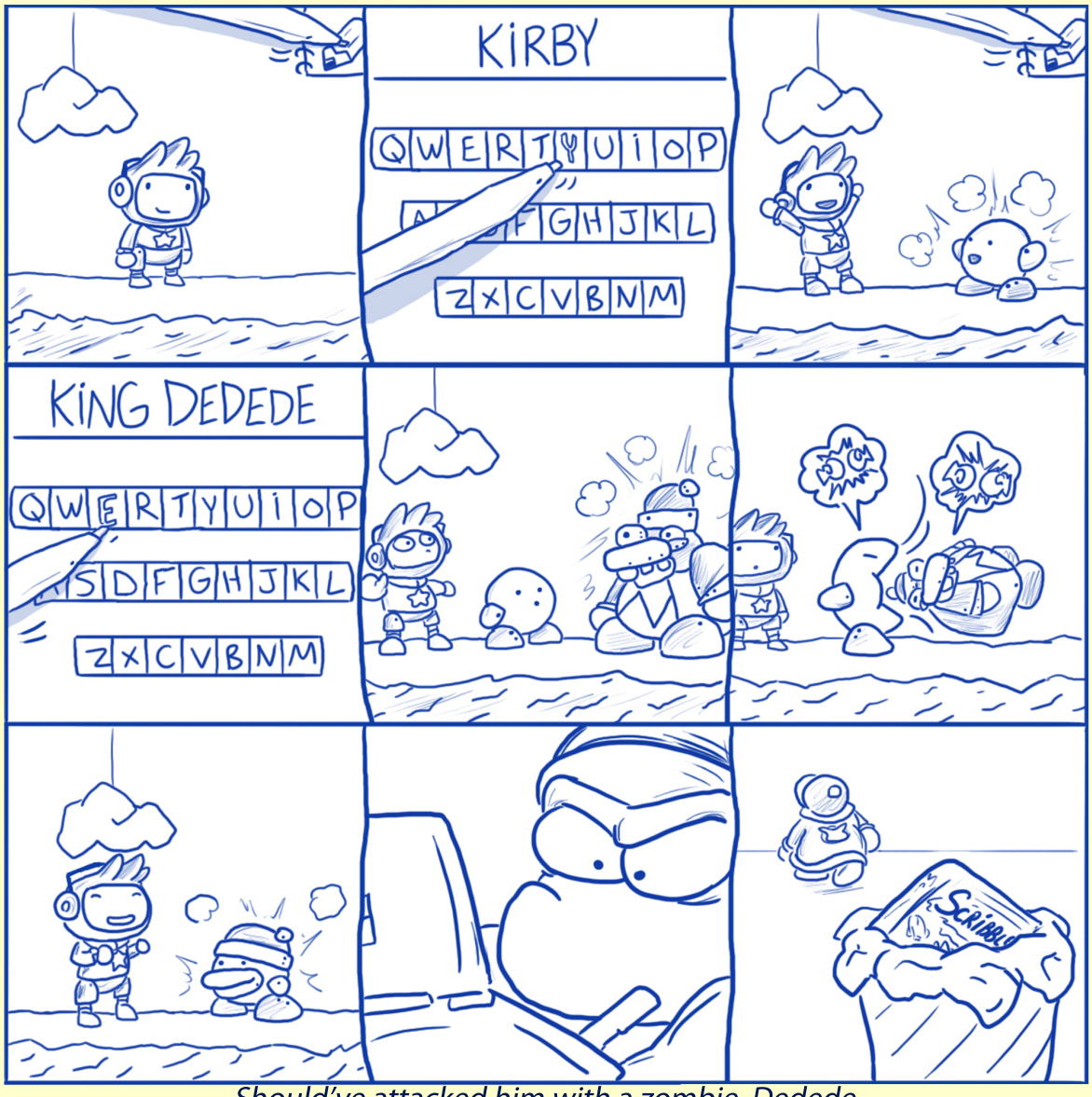
This is my wife's favorite BitF comic.

188 - Kuribo's Shoe



Mario doesn't seem to mind the undoubtedly powerful stench.

189 - Scribbling



Should've attacked him with a zombie, Dedede.

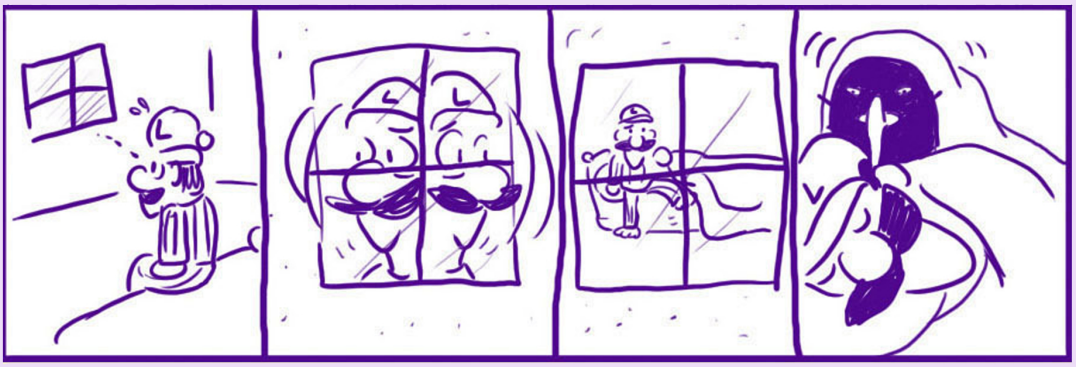
190 - Where's Waluigi?

Yeah, I'm pretty sure I have arthritis now.

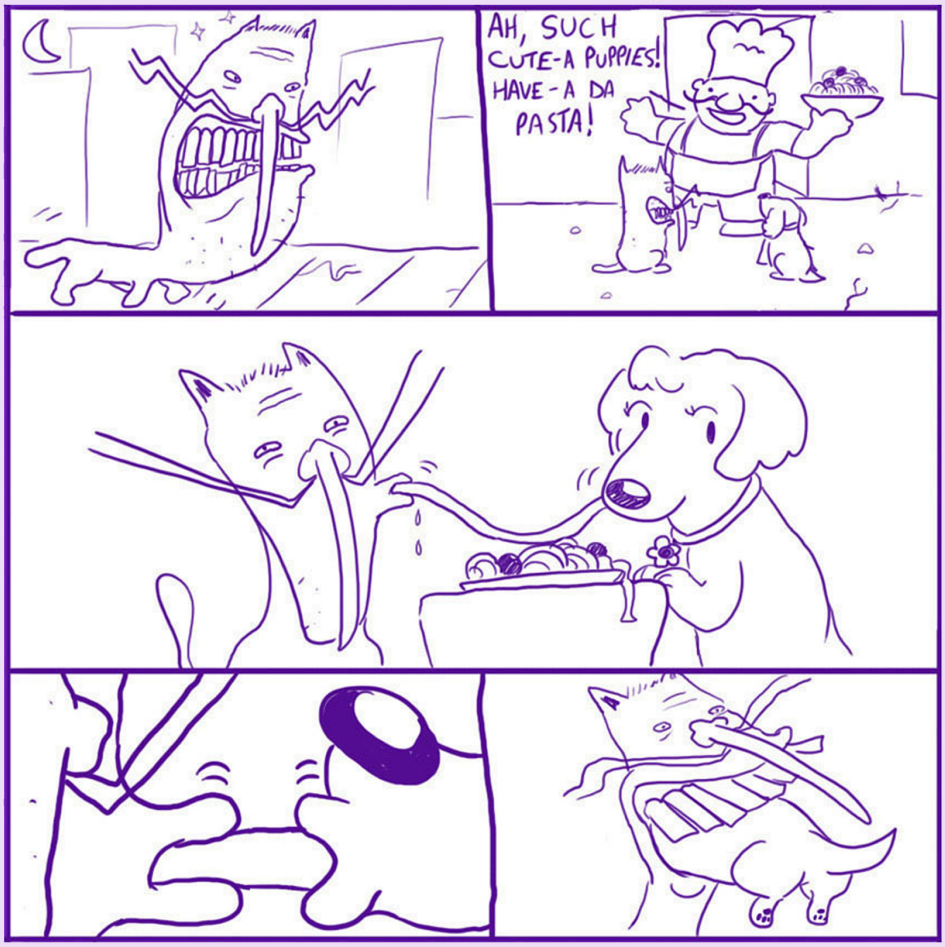
Part of the gag with this "everyone included" strip was that Waluigi's location is supposedly obvious...but many readers had trouble finding him!

191 - Waluigi Triloigi

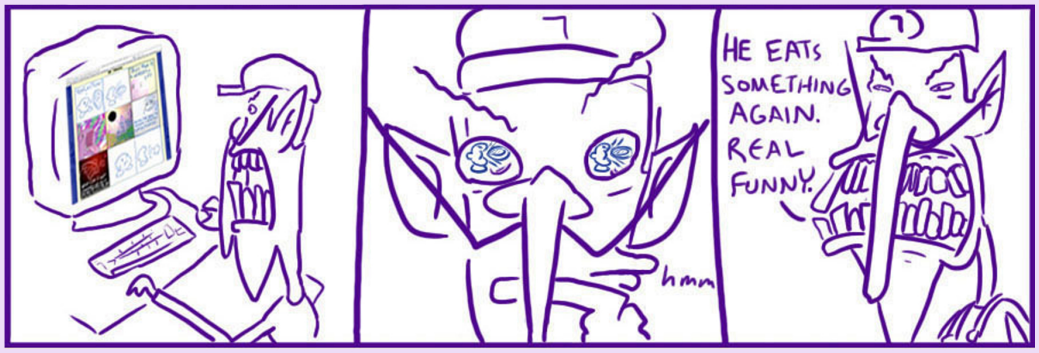
00000018 - Waluigi is Everywhere



00000019 - Allycat Waluigi



00000020 - Waluigi Occasionally Misses the Point



00000021 - Waluigi Foils a Furniture Store Robbery

00000022 - Waluigi and Wario Play The Legend of Zelda

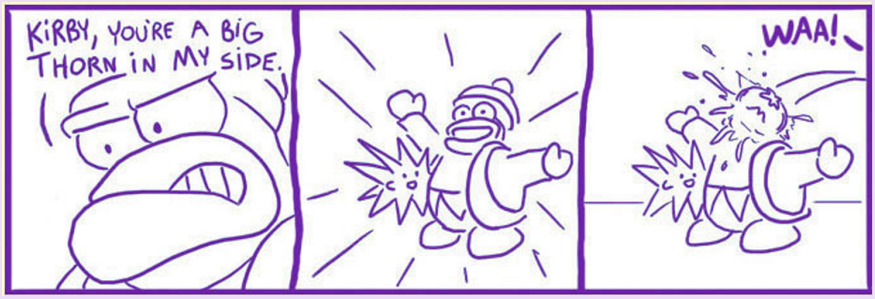
00000023 - Waluigi is Even More Everywhere

00000024 - Waluigi Checks Out a Library Book

00000025 - Waluijafar

00000026 - Waluigi's Nemesis Informs the Viewers

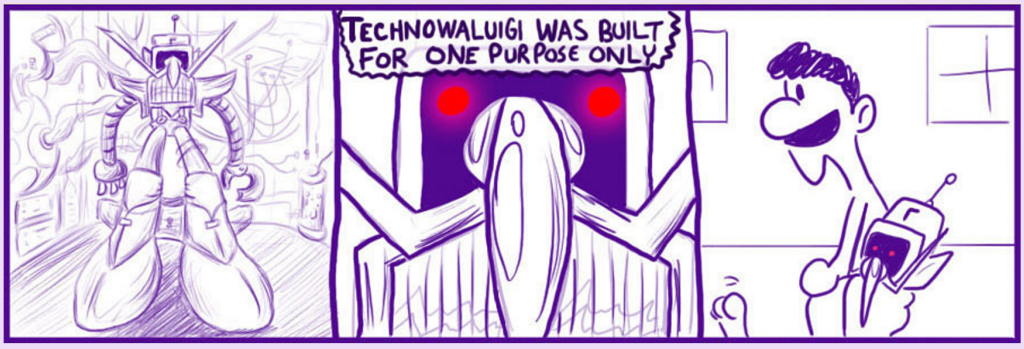
00000027 - Waluigi Dislikes Brawl in the Family



00000028 - Waluigi Helps Link on His Quest

00000029 - Waluigi Gets Soup

00000030 - TechnoWaluigi: Let's Kick Waluigi!

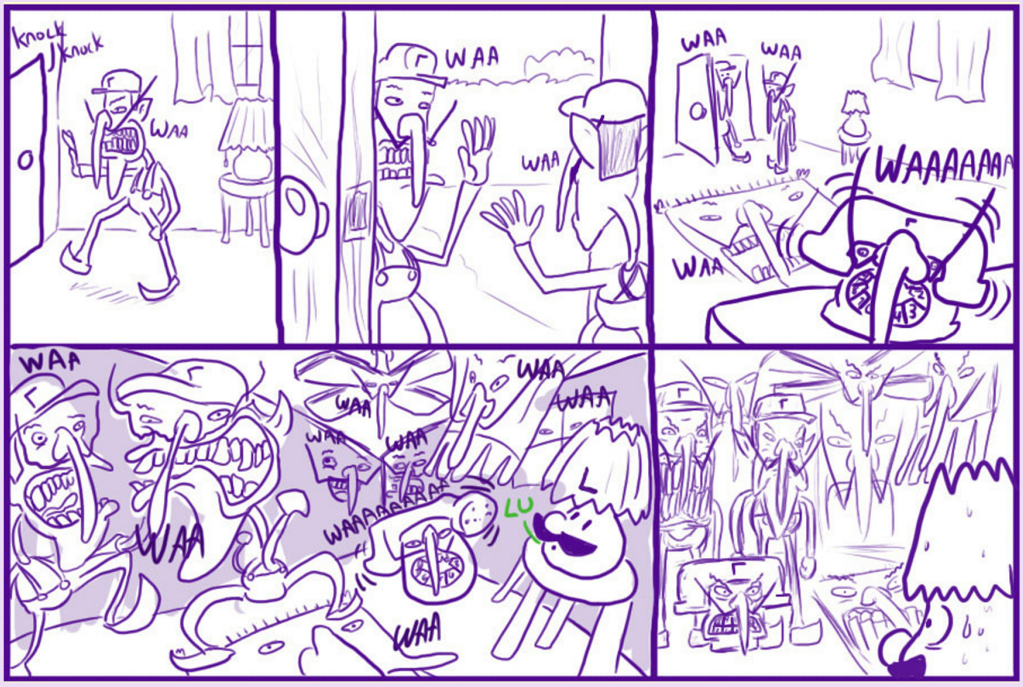


00000031 - Bury My Waluigi at Wounded Waluigi

00000032 - Waluigi Surfin'

00000033 - StarWaluigi: Where No Waluigi Has Gone BeWaluigi

00000034 - Neon Night Waluigis



00000035 - Happy Birthday Waluigi

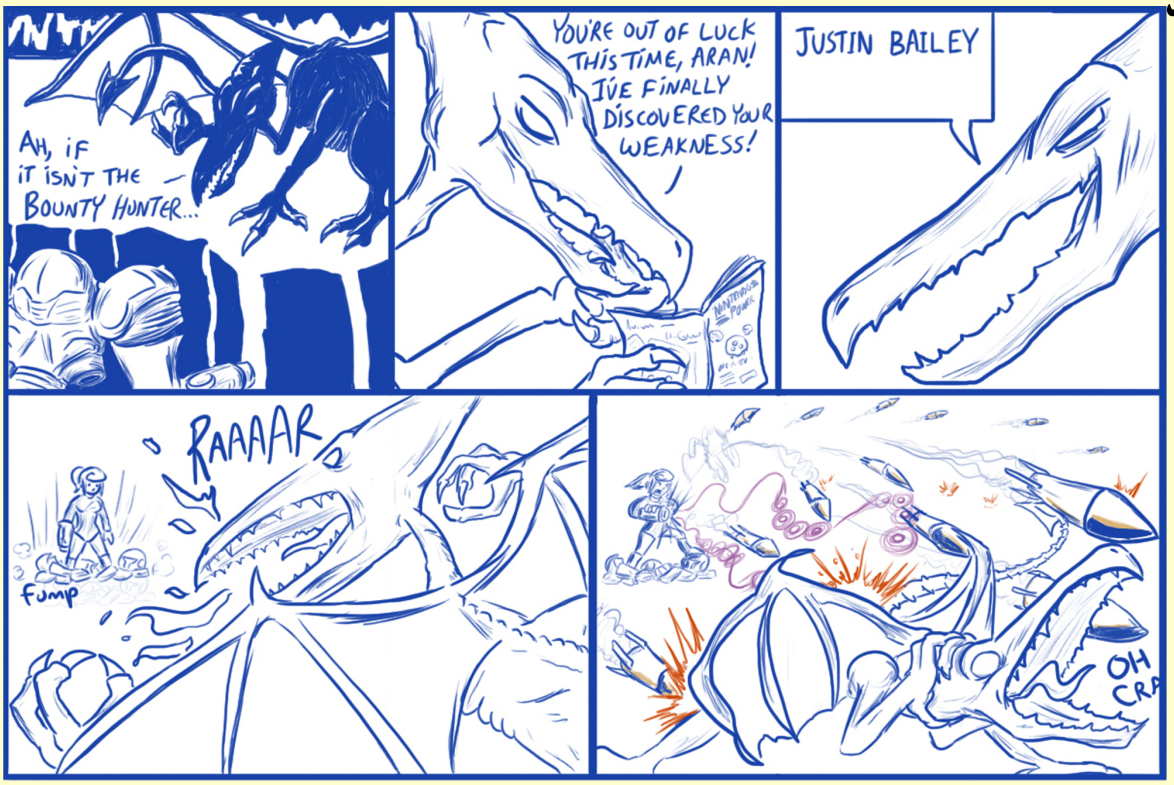
And that wraps up another set of Waluigi insanity. Chris handled a few of these once again, including the moody strip above. Until next time, WAAAAAAA.

Lu.

192 - Blue Shell

The potential dangers of co-op play

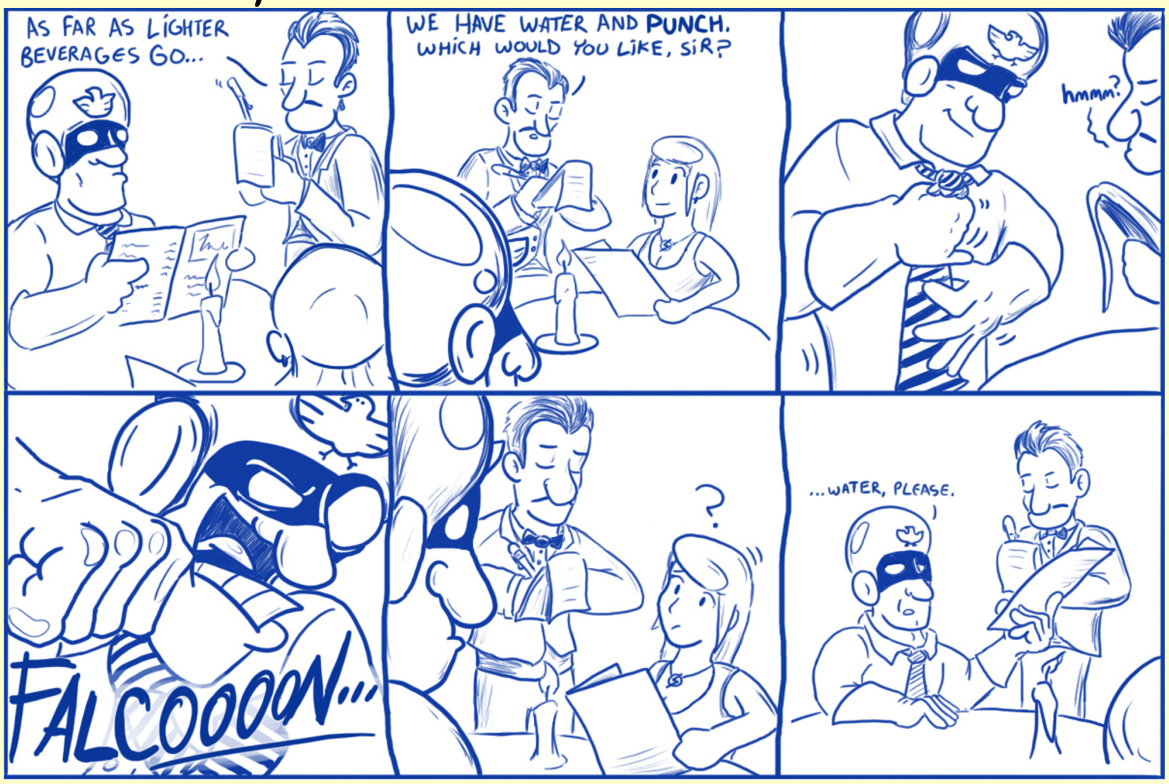
193 - Ridley



Apparently, the Varia Suit is completely unnecessary.

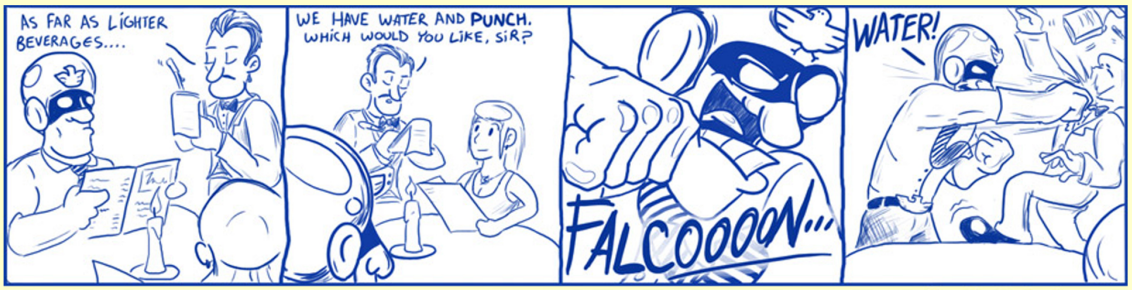
This strip was conceptualized as Captain Falcon pulling this on Samus so she'd drop the suit. Chris said that it made him look like a jerk, and he was right.

194 - Captain Falcon On a Date



Oui, monsieur, zee wahtair eez a fine choice for eempressing zee ladeez, hohn? The concept of Captain Falcon on a date with Samus was later expanded into its own story arc...but you'll have to wait for the next book for that one!

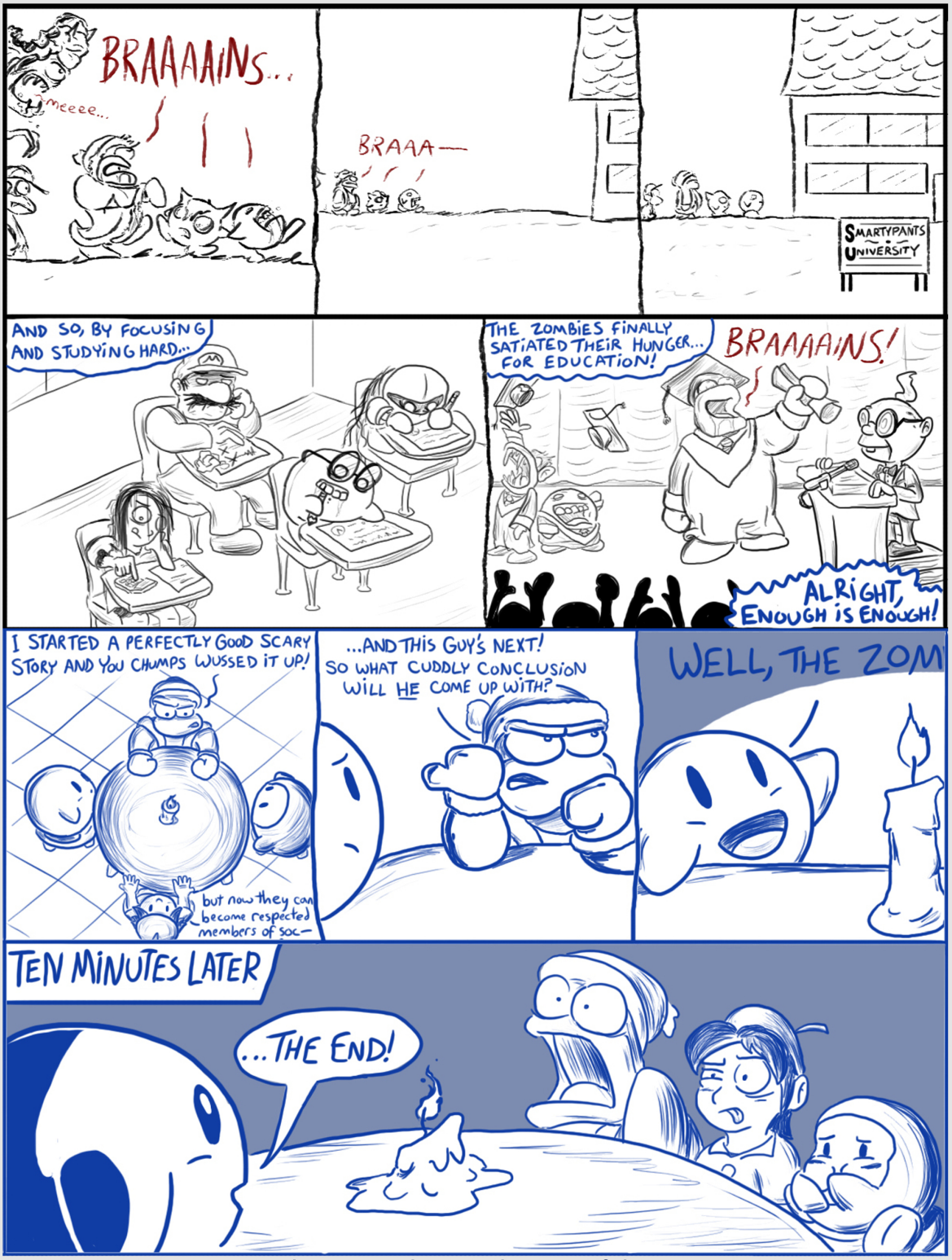
In the meantime, check out the alternate version of this strip below:



195 - Zombie Attack

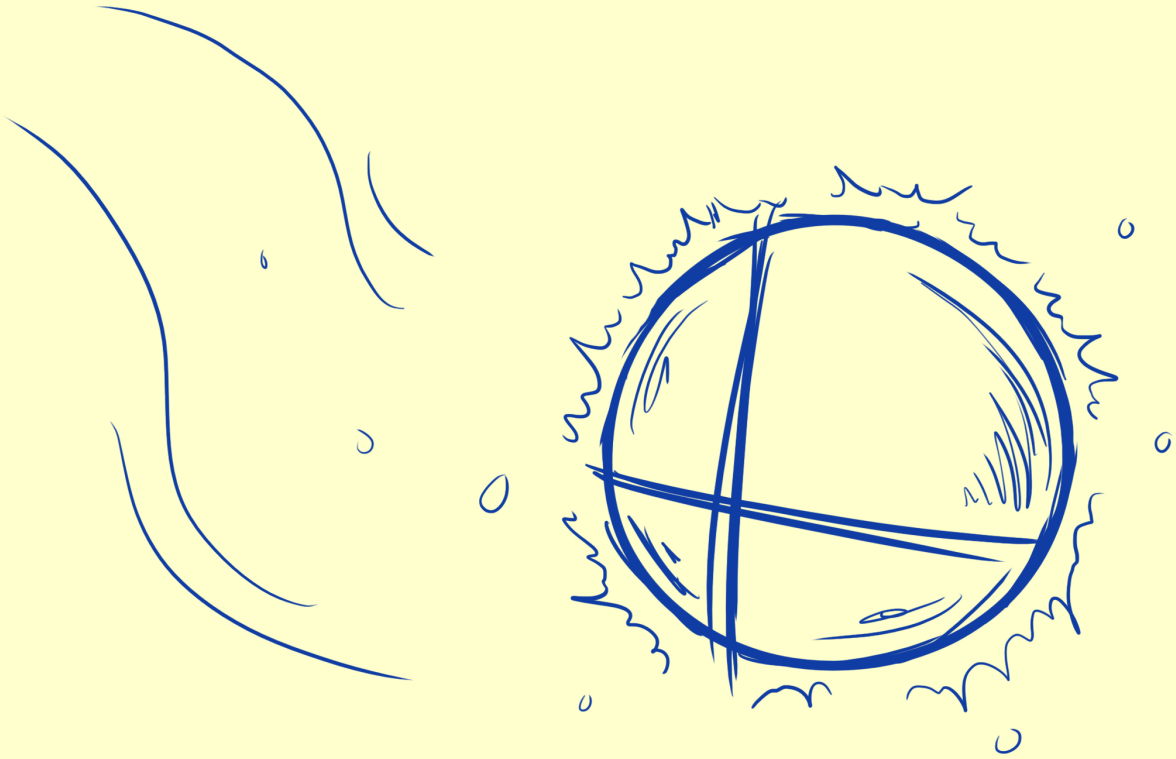
Fight your fears and survive

196 - Zombie Finale

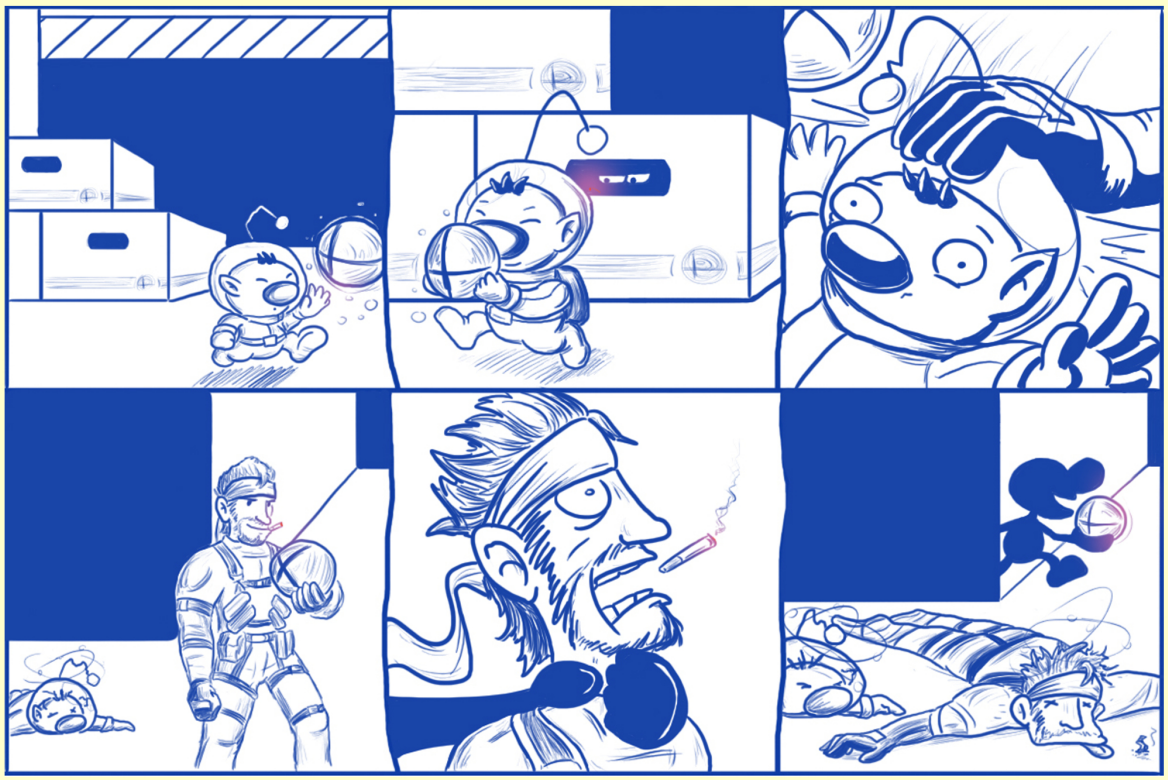


...and now you know...the rest of the story.

Halloween's fun, so I wanted to try for a ghoulish comic this time around, complete with some spooky visuals and a surprise ending. The intro with Adeleine was a nod to both Alfred Hitchcock and The Simpsons.



197 - Stealth



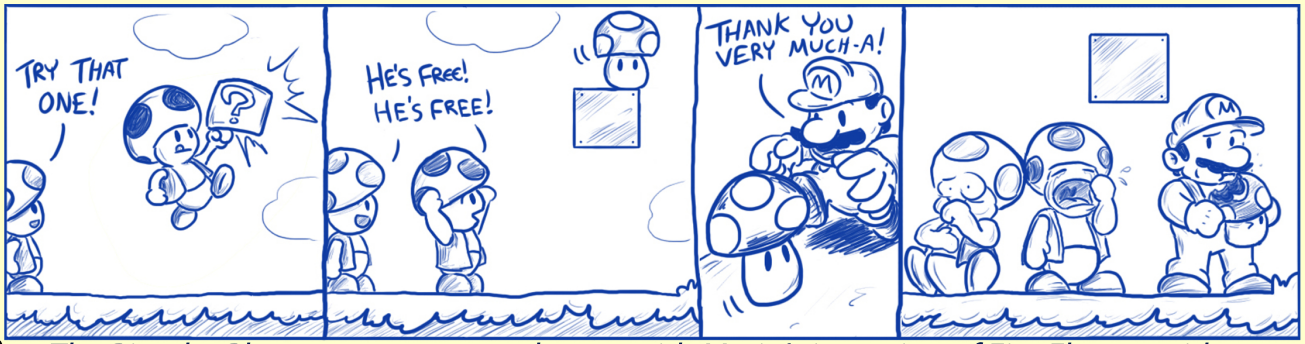
Great, now there's a giant octopus roaming the facility...

198 - Picnic

Should've saved that for the stage, Kirby!

I came up with this pun in the grocery store one day, and it was absolutely awful, so naturally I had to use it.

199 - Toads



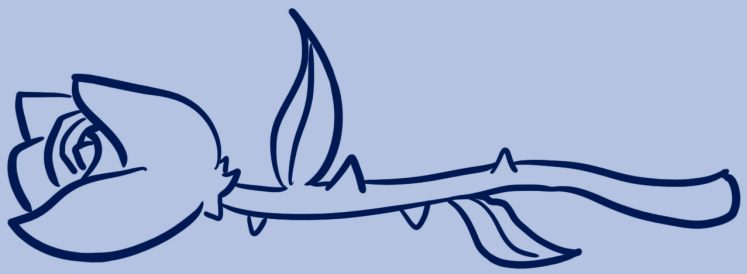
The Piranha Plants were none too happy with Mario's ingestion of Fire Flowers either.

ODE to MINIONS

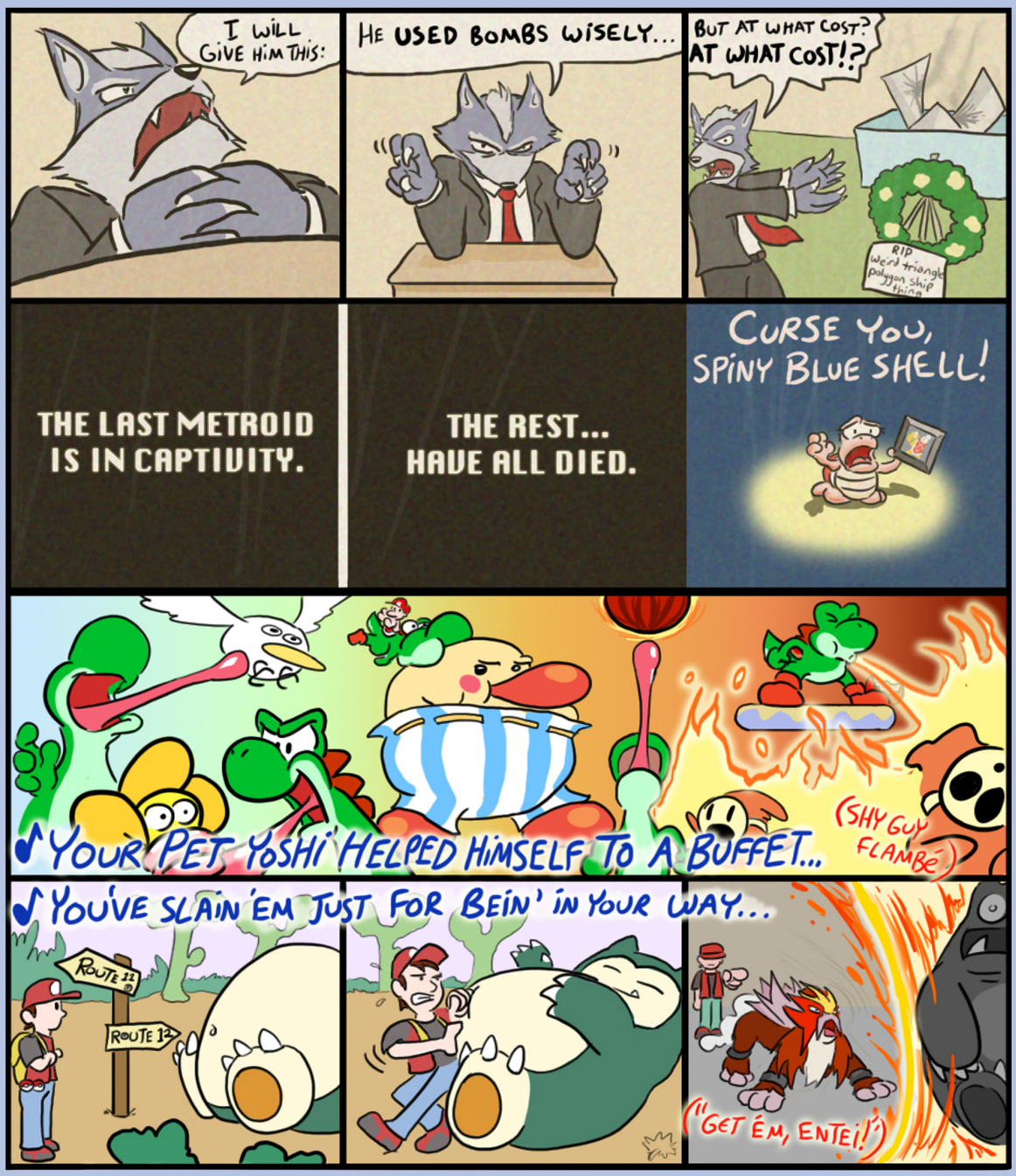
200 - Ode to Minions

Sorry gang, but it's another musical strip! Feel free to pull up the song on www.brawlinthefamily.com if you'd like though! This one's all about honoring the minions out there, so be sure to remove your hat when the anthem starts.

♪ THESE MINIONS CLOCK IN FROM 9 TO 5 TO PROVIDE FOR THEIR WIVES...
♪ NOT KNOWING ITD BE
THE LAST DAY
OF THEIR LIVES!
♪ SO LIGHT A CANDLE
FOR THE GOOMBAS
THAT WERE CRUSHED BENEATH YOUR FEET.
100
♪ SAY A PRAYER
FOR ALL THE OCTOROKS
THAT WERE SLICED INTO
MINCE MEAT.
x 90



♪ Give a shout out
To the keese you killed
Just to open that locked door.
♪ 'Cause no one thinks about
the minions
So cold...
Anymore... ♪
On August 24, 198
23 keese lost the
lives in this dunge
We remember that
As we gather here to mourn the loss of our pal, let's never forget that...
Dodongo disliked smoke.
He disliked smoke...
To the end!
GOODNIGHT, SWEET KRAKEN
It's pronounced "crackin'."


I WILL GIVE HIM THIS:
HE USED BOMBS WISELY...
BUT AT WHAT COST? AT WHAT COST!?
RIP weird triangle polygon ship thing
THE LAST METROID IS IN CAPTIVITY.
THE REST... HAVE ALL DIED.
CURSE YOU, SPINY BLUE SHELL!
♪YOUR PET YOSHI HELPED HIMSELF TO A BUFFET...
(SHY GUY FLAMBÉ)
♪YOU'VE SLAIN 'EM JUST FOR BEIN' IN YOUR WAY...
ROUTE 11
ROUTE 12
("GET 'EM, ENTEI!")

♪THEY'VE GOT KIDS TO FEED,
YARDS TO WEED,
TAXES AND BILLS TO PAY...
♪SO PUT YOUR PLUMBER'S HAT OVER YOUR HEART AND SAY...
♪THAT YOU'RE SORRY
TO THE METS YOU FRIED
JUST TO GRAB AN EXTRA SCREW!
♪APOLOGIZE
TO THE DUCKS YOU SHOT
SO A DOG WOULDN'T
LAUGH AT YOU!

Brawl in the Family Comic 200! Matthew Taranto

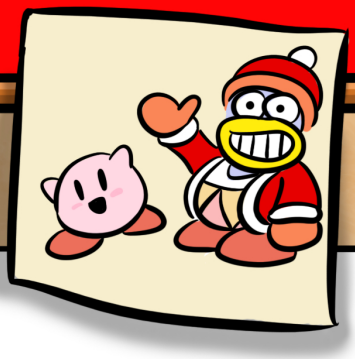
Besides gaming, my main hobbies are in both art and music, so I really wanted to make something special for the 200th Brawl in the Family comic. I wrote and sang this original song with help from my family, and musical comics on numerical milestones became a regular tradition.

That wraps up the early years of Brawl in the Family--I hope you enjoyed it! Stick around for some behind-the-scenes bonus material and more.

Thanks for reading!

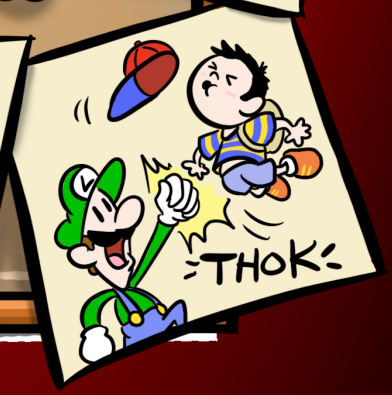
Matthew Taranto

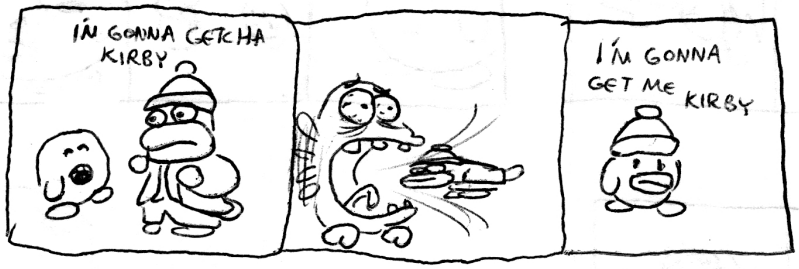
GALLERY

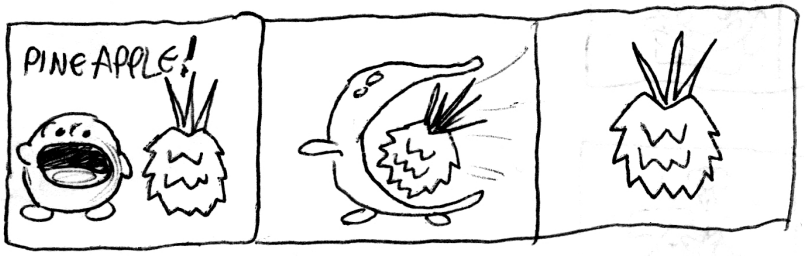


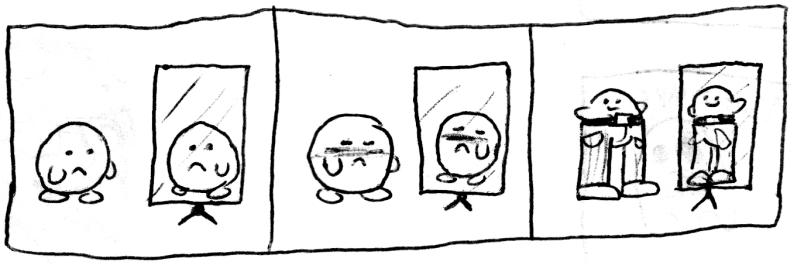
While the comics are the main attraction in Brawl in the Family, there are plenty of bonus images that spring up from time to time as well. Several of them were tucked away in the comics section, while the rest washed up here in the Gallery for your enjoyment! Take a look around to witness the very first BitF doodles, a huge all-star cast pic, as well as other miscellaneous images.

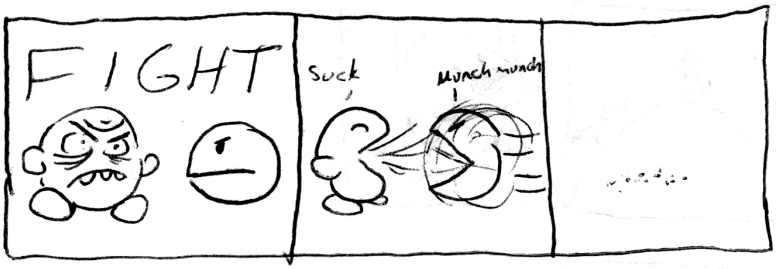
It's a collection of some of our greatest hits!





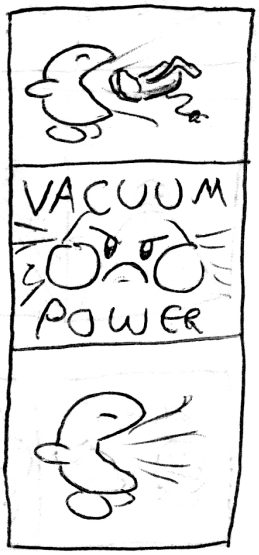






BONUS COMIC!

Seeecret Comic!



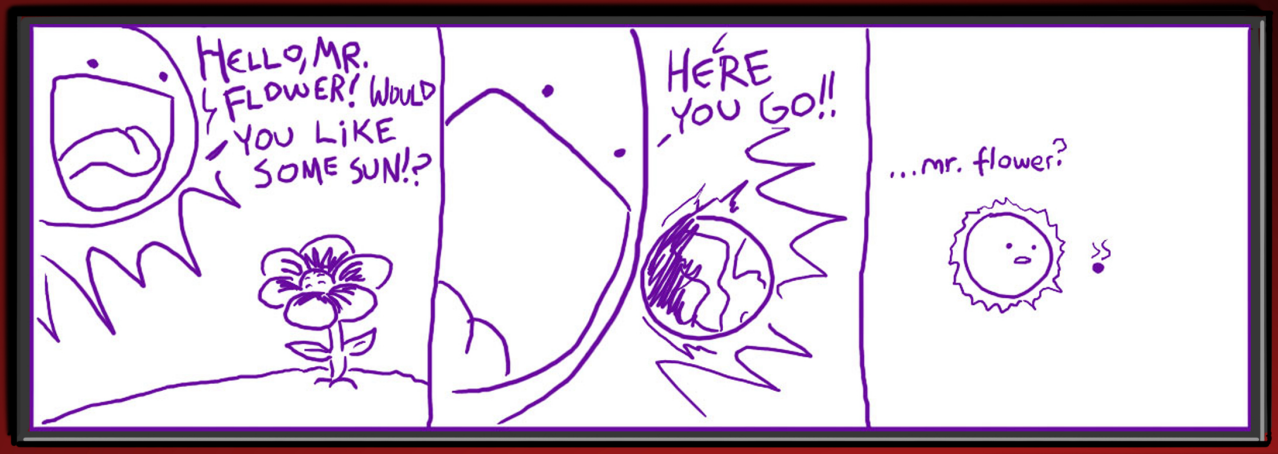
Never-before-seen: the very first doodles of Brawl in the Family!

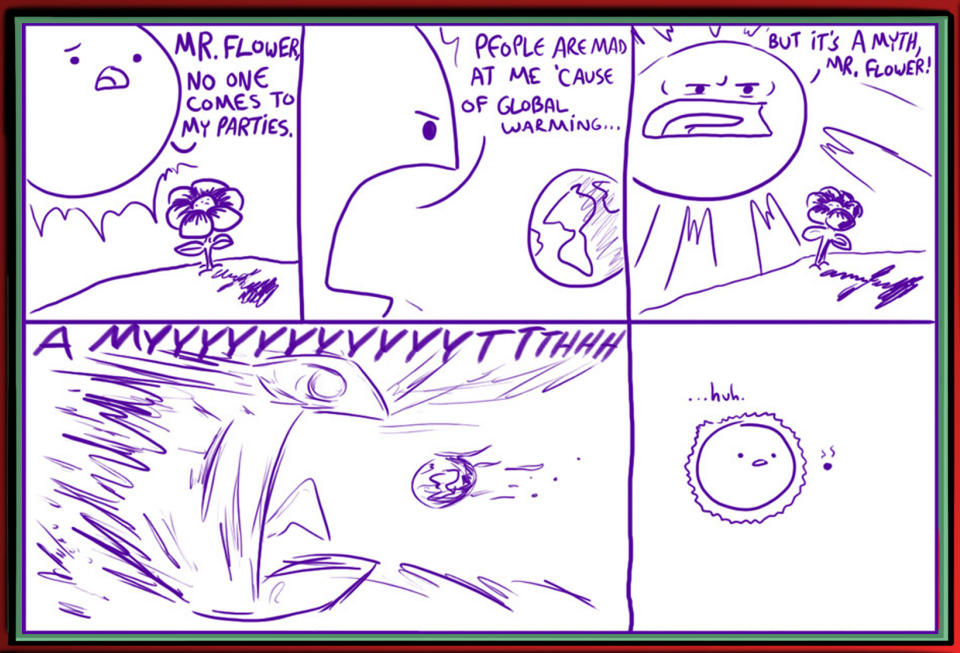
Alternate endings to Gooey Bomb

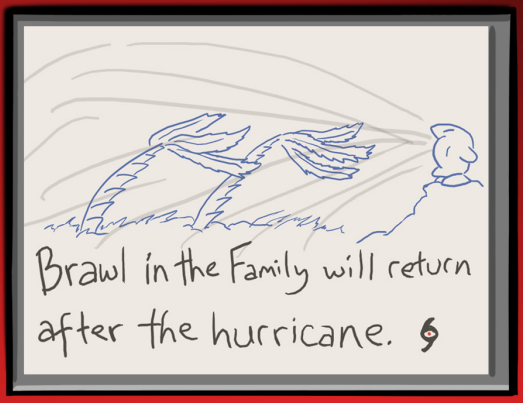
In late 2009, my Wii suddenly died and I lost all save data. It was so distressing that I felt compelled to make this non-canon BitF comic about the end of the world. If you don't get the ending, take a look at the next page of the Gallery!

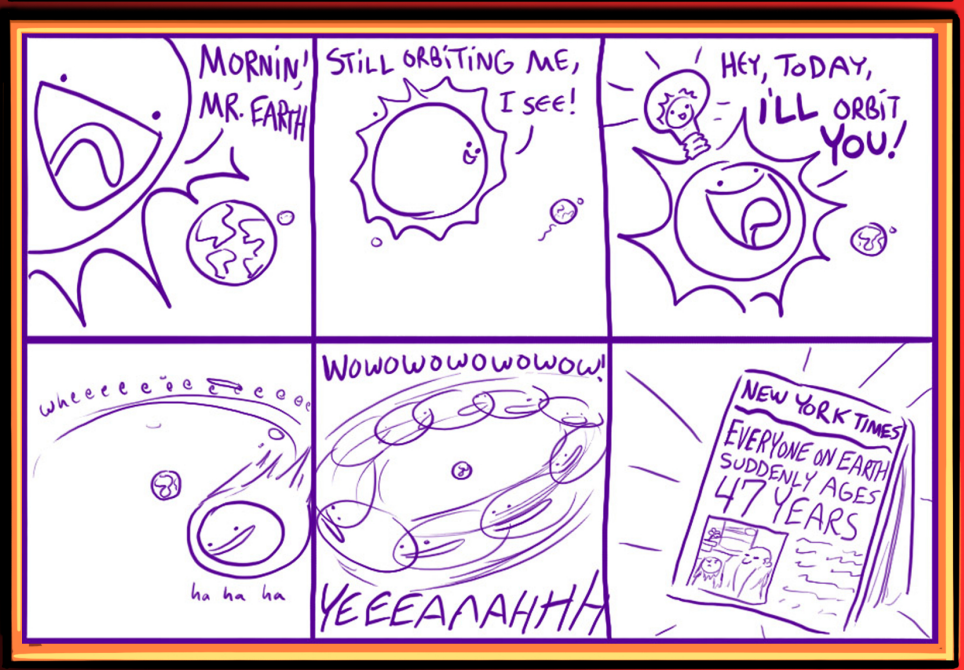
Halloween idea sketches

The original version of comic 044 - Peach.







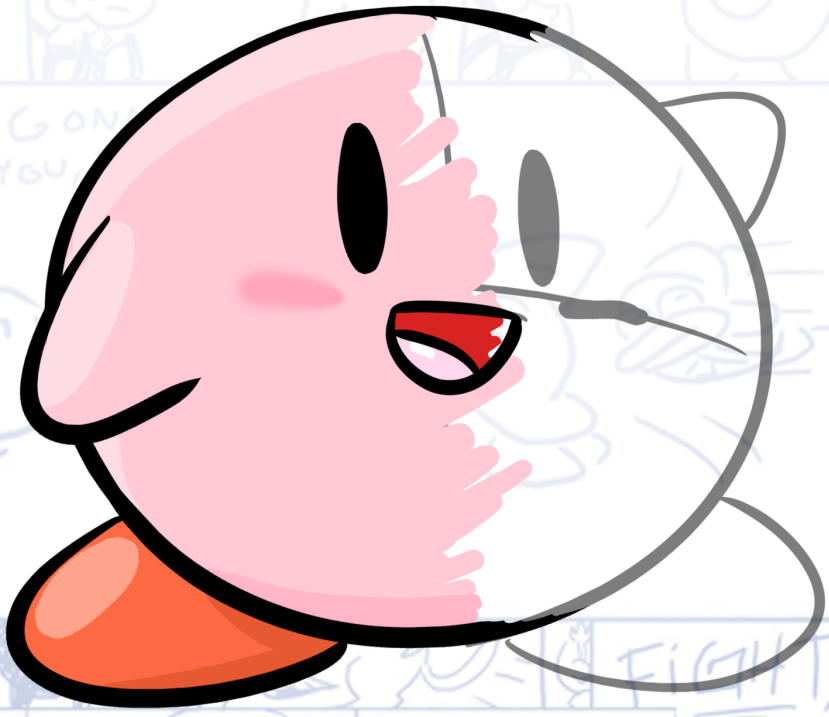


These "Mr. Flower" comics started off just like BitF--as doodles in a sketchbook. I put them on the site as an occasional bonus for readers.

The MAKING of Brawl in the Family

Now that you're familiar with the madness that is Brawl in the Family, you may be wondering how a comic strip jumps from a scattershot collection of ideas into its final, semi-polished form.

Come now, as we take a look behind the brawl.



Step 1: The Sketchbook

Comics almost always begin life on paper, where--while crude--the basic ideas and/or framework of the strip is often constructed. It's all about quickly jotting it down!

There are currently seven sketchbooks filled with BitF-related drawings and early comics! Here's an example straight from one of those hallowed pages.

Step 2: Digital Draft

The second step takes the concept from the sketchbook and tightens the framing and placement. The goal here is to basically have all of the content and ideas presented more or less how they will be in the final version. While the art is still on the loose side, the purpose is to place the characters and text in a close approximation of where they'll end up when the strip hits the website.

In a way, the looser linework in this phase kind of has its own character to it, so I try hard nowadays to carry that look to the finalized version!

Step 3: Final Linework

The digital sketch stays on its own separate, transparent layer, while I draw the full outlines from scratch using the sketch as a guideline. Since this is the version everyone will see, this is where presentation and polish really matters. A few minor things may be adjusted here or there, while details (and backgrounds where applicable) come into their own in this step.

After doing the basic linework, I finish with the coloring and shading, but that step took a lot less time before I went with a more filled-in style of shading in 2010--a bit after the last comics presented in this book.

So now the strip is ready to hit the internet and future bestselling books!
Best of luck to you, little comic!

WOW!! SLIGHTLY MORE DETAIL!

Some panels are still changed at this point

Gotta have the URL! → www.brawlinthefamily.com

SPECIAL THANKS!

The following people deserve special recognition for helping to make this book possible:

Jon Arbaiza

TiTo

C. Chouinard

Reece 'Smee' Abrahams

Jason Ashmore Hurt

Wolf the Third

Ben McCabe

Troy Fox

Karl "Kalle" Gustafsson

Roahvinla "Kirbster"

Cody Alan Rushing

Stefan "ccst" Somo

Kevin & Sam Koeser

Ray not Tim

2P START!

Simon "tzx" Somo

Derrick Duister

PeachHever (Joselyne M.)

Sam Thornton

Cameron Hixson

Ben Thornton

Joe Denicola

Emily Horne

Tofski

Sam Berck

Krystizzle

Andrew Lawrenson

Ben Forgy

Ben White

Salvador Oliveira

The Carlson Bros.

Daniel Worthington

Steven the Master Loch

Jayden Ward

David Fleming

Sam J

Anthony Busacca

Matthew Daly

Max Baney

Thomas Busacca

Jaded X. Gamer

Jeff Chong

Evan Rozney

Emily

Justin Holien

Christina Gleaves

Jason Sperber

medibot

Zackman Harris

近藤·哲仁

Alex Vincent

Rachel "JTT" Bentz

Jeremy Beare

Edward Chik

Nick Cooper

Mort

The Bud Bros.

Purg

Tom Laflin

Zackman Harris

Katie E

Bobo

Kevin Gerstle

Aunt Sondra & Uncle Duane

~radiancetone~

DDCWGD

Jeff and David Nickel

Joe 'skullkid3' Golding

Eric "Cap'n" Heine

Brandon Eaker

slashmastah

Julien Bélanger

Andrew Logston

Erwin Prihadi

nubluva

Andrew Smith

SpiderCVIII

D. Morrell

Michael Woolton

ajnrules

pikadanchou

Sparky Lurkdragon

Ian Seebach

Christopher "Polar Phantom" Kirkman

Sean J. Bell

David Ludwig

Cayla Michelle

Sandra Colene Hudspeth

Sam Erskine

NintendoNaut

Adam Wilson

The Duffys

Max Maisel

Kevin Griffin

Mary "Malibu" Buchanan

Jason Stone

Ryan Dickenson

June Kim

Jonathan Ong Yao

Will Ung

Rohan Currie

Kellen "Rhadamanthus" McIntyre

Gregory Hastings

Steven Szabo

"Oni" Jason Munoz

Andrew "NachozRule" Grabowski

Christopher Russel

David Eggleton

The Luna Bros.

Michael O'Sullivan

Mr. Tie

Dylan Gaskell

Ian Fraser

Mazeedibeedi

Wesley Reed

Ricardo Aguilera

Meghan Rieke

Mark Victor Ferrer

Nicholas Taylor

Colin M. Calamaras

Rollupntraff

Josh Deutscher

Andrew Theodosakis

CHARACTER INDEX

Want to find comics that feature your favorite character? Just check out this handy Character Index! The numbers listed below each of these twelve beloved BitF cast members represent the comic numbers (not page numbers) in which they appear.

Adeleine

040 055 072 092 098 133 134 135 136 150 175 176 184 190 195 196 198

Bowser

049 066 086 105 111 116 117 123 190 195 200

Dedede, King

001 005 008 010 014 020 024 025 028 033 046 050 055 058 060 072 074 076 077 082 084 087 092 095 098 100 103 106 108 114 115 116 117 118 119 122 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 146 147 150 151 164 165 173 174 175 176 182 184 189 190 191 195 196

Diddy Kong

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Jigglypuff

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Kirby

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Link

037 045 059 073 097 101 109 117 121 126 144 149 150 156 167 181 190 191 200

Mario

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Meta Knight

010 020 055 072 076 077 082 084 092 096 098 117 119 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 151 174 175 176 190 195 196

Waddle Dee

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Waluigi

151, 190, 191, 200